FALSE SPANISH FRIENDS

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Many Spanish words look the same as their English counterparts—but not all! Here's a sampling of some false friends, much like the French ones listed in the August 1975 and February 1976 Word Ways.

AJAR to crumple ARENA sand
BALSA pool BATE bat BLOC pad BRONCO rough
CAFE coffee CANAPE sofa CARTEL poster CARTON cardboard COLA tail
COLLAR necklace COMA comma COMER to eat CON with CORAL choral
CORDON string COL cabbage
DADO dice DON talent
ENLACE connection
FARO lighthouse FIN end FINES Finnish FRAY friar
GALAS finery GALES Wales GENIAL brilliant GUSTO taste
INGLE groin INSTAR urge
LABIA glibness LAUD lute LEER to read LIAR to tie LID fight LIMO mud
MASCARA mask MATE dull MAYO May MAYOR bigger MEDIA stocking
MEMO stupid MESON inn MOLE mass MOTE nickname MORAL mulberry
NON odd
ONCE eleven
PACER to graze PAN bread PAPA Pope PARED wall PASTEL cake
PESO weight PIE foot POLO pole PRO for PURE puree
QUINCE fifteen
RED network RENTABLE profitable REPLICA answer RUIN despicable
SAUCE willow SEA to be SIN without SON sound SOY to be
TALON heel TALLER workshop TAN so TOPE maximum TUNA prickly pear
VALE voucher VINE to come VISOR viewfinder

But the falsest friend of all is the Spanish word INHABITABLE which my dictionary translates as "uninhabitable"!