



# DISCOVER OUR CULTURE



# BARCELONA IS MUCH MORE



**BCN+** **Barcelona**  
*is much more*



**Diputació  
Barcelona**

# DISCOVER CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Discover the fantastic wealth of heritage simply by strolling through the towns and cities near Barcelona. Take part in the festivals and traditions, and be amazed by their museums.

Prehistoric remains and Roman villas with thermal baths, churches and monasteries in Romanesque and Gothic style, medieval castles that in summer play host to musical festivals, Modernista buildings designed by the best architects, factories and industrial facilities transformed into attractive museums.

Delights and wonders to enjoy, bequeathed by our forebears and by those who in their day were inspired by this landscape and this heritage, such as Picasso, Gaudí and Jacint Verdaguer.

Find suggestions on what to do there as a couple or as a family: there's nothing like discovering heritage through the eyes of a child!

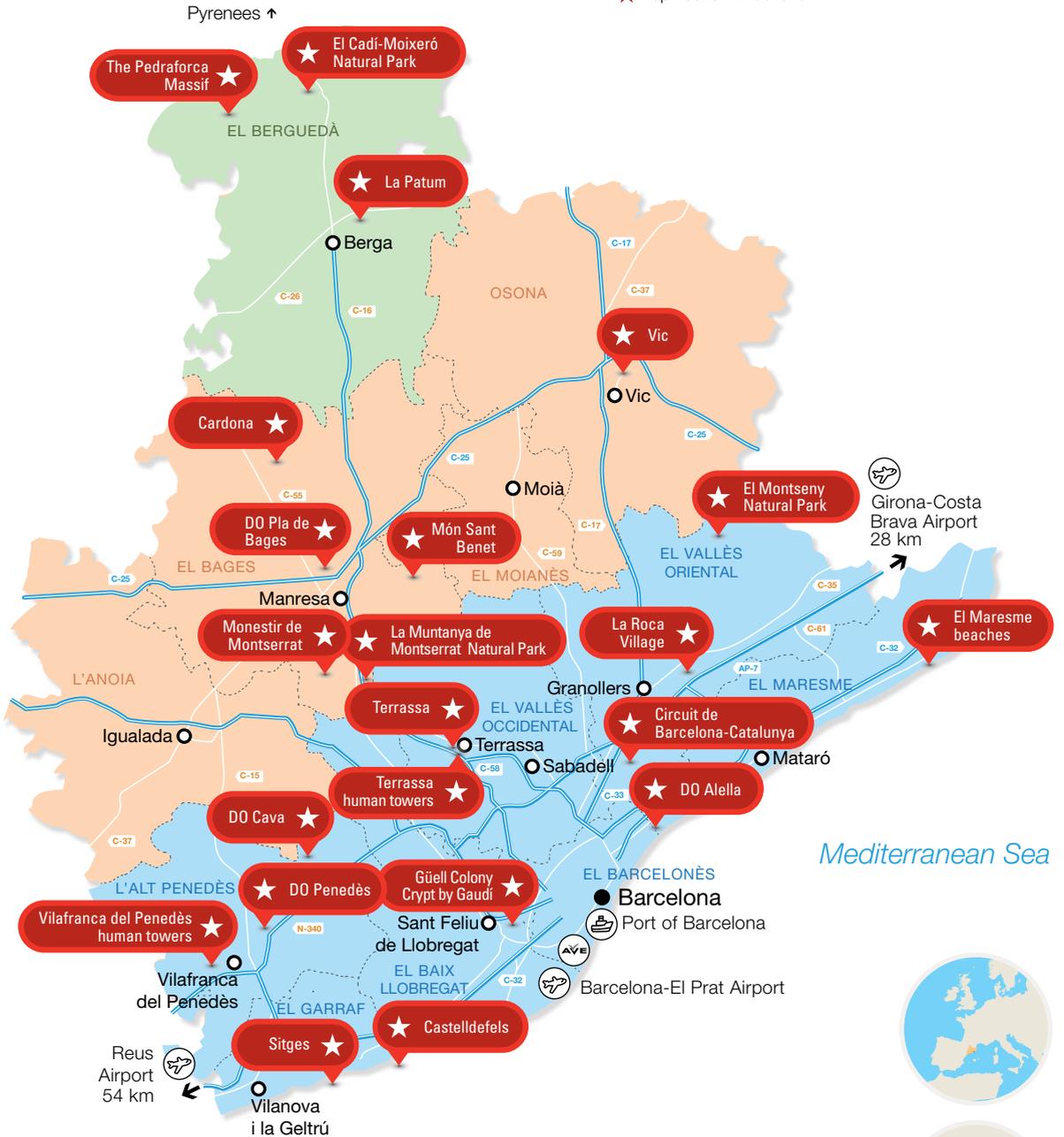
## COVER PHOTOS:

Güell Colony Crypt by Gaudí,  
Santa Coloma de Cervelló  
Vijazz, Vilafranca del Penedès  
Castelldefels human towers  
La Patum, Berga  
Masia Freixa, Terrassa  
Roman Temple, Vic

**Don't delay – come and visit today!**

# Map of the province of Barcelona

- Pirineus Barcelona
- Landscapes Barcelona
- Costa Barcelona
- Top Tourist Attractions
- Airport
- Port
- High-speed train



Mediterranean Sea



Barcelona

# WORLD HERITAGE

We're proud of our heritage, of our traditions and our culture. And we love it so much that we conserve it, we live it with a passion, and we share it. These efforts have been recognised by UNESCO, which has declared the works of Gaudí World Heritage, and La Patum Festival of Berga and the *castells*, or human towers, Intangible Cultural Heritage.



## GAUDÍ'S LABORATORY

Have you ever walked through a forest of columns? If you are passionate about Gaudí, then it is absolutely essential that you go to Santa Coloma de Cervelló and visit the **Güell Colony**<sup>(1)</sup> Crypt, a veritable marvel of twisted columns, hyperboloid arches, stained glass that invites you to discover the elements of nature and exquisite and serpentine furniture that seems to continue to the outside, to the hill and to the pinewoods. They say that the Güell Colony Crypt was the laboratory for the Sagrada Família, where Gaudí tested out his architectural innovations that make his work so unique. Make it a leisurely visit. On leaving, travel back in time walking through the streets of a 19th century industrial colony, or village. Modernista-style houses with exposed brick, the square, the doctor's house... and a special atmosphere that is still conserved to this day.

[www.gaudicoloniaguell.org](http://www.gaudicoloniaguell.org)

<http://naugaudi.cat>

[www.poblalilet.cat](http://www.poblalilet.cat)



## LA PATUM

We invite you to the Plaça de Sant Pere in Berga, to move to the rhythmic beat of the tabal drum until the *plens* (fire demons) fill the night with fire and sparks. It is **La Patum of Berga**<sup>(2)</sup>. The fire, the music and the symbolic figures are the main elements of this festival dating from the 14th century that today transforms the entire city and invites everyone to take part.



## CASTELLS, OR HUMAN TOWERS

To experience a **Diada Castellera**<sup>(3)</sup> (Day of *Castells*) will leave you with goose bumps: from the base, tiers of people are built up, accompanied by the music of the *gralla*, a wind instrument, until the *castell* is crowned. The tension is palpable until the *enxaneta*, the child on the top of a *castell*, raises their arm. It is then that the euphoria is unleashed. You can sense the solidarity and effort, the pure emotion of the men and women who raise the towers up to ten tiers.

The best places to see them are in Vilafranca del Penedès, where you can be a virtual *casteller* (a person who's part of a human tower) for a while, Vilanova i la Geltrú, Terrassa and Mataró... but human towers can also be seen rising up in the squares of many other towns and cities.

[www.lapatum.cat](http://www.lapatum.cat)

[www.cccc.cat](http://www.cccc.cat)

[www.castellersdevilafranca.cat](http://www.castellersdevilafranca.cat)

<http://castellersdeterrassa.cat>



## Don't miss it

If you want more Gaudí, in Mataró you can visit the **Nau Gaudí**, which today is a contemporary art centre. And in La Pobla de Lillet, you can walk round the **Artigas Gardens**<sup>(4)</sup>, the finest example of fusion between architecture and nature. You can get there on the Cement Train.

# HISTORY AND ORIGINS

Near Barcelona you can discover how the ancient inhabitants of this region lived: a region proud of its past, which it shows you in the best museums and sites, and suggest activities for all the family.



## ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOR A DAY

Our past returns to the present and invites us to participate in workshops and dramatised visits, and also striking festivals and celebrations such as the **Cap de Setmana Ibèric** (Iberian Weekend), the **Magna Celebratio**<sup>(2)</sup> and the **Ludi Rubricati**, where you can get a sense of how the Iberians or Romans lived for a day. If you go to the **Gavà Mines**<sup>(1)</sup>, in the **Archaeological Park**, you will find variscite, the material that Neolithic man used six thousand years ago to make necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

If you go to **L'Esquerda**, beside Roda de Ter, you'll discover a settlement that began in the 8th century BCE, during the Bronze Age, and ended in the Late Middle Ages. It was occupied by Iberians, Romans, Visigoths, Muslims and Carolingians.



At **Ca n'Oliver**, in Cerdanyola del Vallès, you can explore the settlement that the Laietani occupied between 550 and 50 BCE.



At **Camp de les Lloses**, near Tona, you can follow the route the Roman soldiers took from this military settlement that connected the coast to the interior. The **Sant Boi Roman Baths**<sup>(3)</sup> have the best-conserved Roman baths in Catalonia.

[www.rutadelsibers.cat](http://www.rutadelsibers.cat)  
[www.magnacelebratio.cat](http://www.magnacelebratio.cat)  
[www.parcarqueologic.cat](http://www.parcarqueologic.cat)  
[www.lesquerda.cat](http://www.lesquerda.cat)  
[www.campdeleslloses.cat](http://www.campdeleslloses.cat)  
[www.museusantboi.cat](http://www.museusantboi.cat)

In Els Hostalets de Pierola, there is an outstanding group of palaeontological sites. The **Palaeontology Restoration and Interpretation Centre** helps promote these sites from the Miocene Epoch and offers scientific teaching on them.

Have you ever wondered where the first Catalans lived? Probably close to Capellades. In the **Abric Romani** archaeological site, remains have been found that will make you want to visit it and that will put you to the test.



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## Don't miss it

Also underground, thanks to excavations beneath the **Museum of Badalona**<sup>(4)</sup> you can walk along the *decumanus* of Baetulo, a Roman city older than Barcelona.

[www.museudebadalona.cat](http://www.museudebadalona.cat)



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## CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES

The first inhabitants of Terrassa chose the best place to live, **Vallparadís Park**, taking advantage of the stream beds and the water. Today it is a vast recreational space in the centre of the city that, whilst walking, takes you to the **Seu d'Ègara**, a complex of three churches with Visigoth, pre-Romanesque, Romanesque and Gothic elements, features that make it a unique site in Catalonia.

Visit **Sant Cugat Monastery**<sup>(5)</sup>, and a guide will explain the history of the 144 Romanesque capitals and its cloister. And in **Món Sant Benet**, in the Benedictine abbey of Sant Fruitós de Bages, live just like the monks did, stroll through the gardens, tend to the market garden and walk through their rooms.

And don't forget to visit the Romanesque legacy that still flourishes in El Berguedà –with excellent examples such as the churches in Sant Jaume de Frontanyà, Sant Quirze de Pedret and Sant Sadurní de Rotgers– or **Montserrat Abbey**<sup>(6)</sup> and its museum. And there is also **Vic Episcopal Museum** and even fortresses and cities such as that in **Cardona**<sup>(7)</sup>.

[www.seudegara.cat](http://www.seudegara.cat)

[www.museu.santcugat.cat](http://www.museu.santcugat.cat)

<http://monstbenet.com>

[www.elbergueda.cat/en/descobreix-el-bergueda/cultura/museus.htm](http://www.elbergueda.cat/en/descobreix-el-bergueda/cultura/museus.htm)

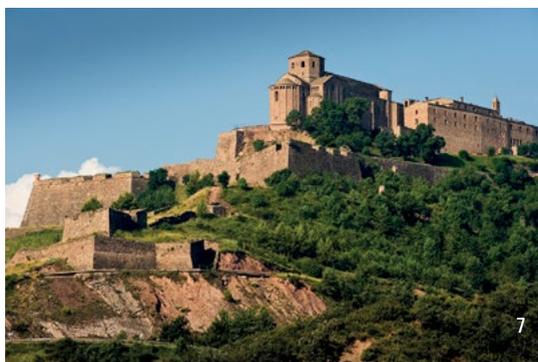
[www.montserratvisita.com](http://www.montserratvisita.com)

[www.museuepiscopalvic.com](http://www.museuepiscopalvic.com)

<http://cardonaturisme.cat>



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# MODERNISME

If you find Modernisme fascinating, very close to Barcelona you will find countless occurrences of this total art that plays with nature. Works by the great Gaudí, summer houses, urban homes, gardens, factories and wineries from the end of the 19th century with which their owners championed modernity.



## LIVING INSIDE MODERNISME

In Sant Joan Despí, the Modernista architect Josep Maria Jujol, a close associate of Gaudí, built a summer house called the **Torre de la Creu**<sup>(3)</sup> (Villa of the Cross), even though everyone knows it as the **Torre dels Ous** (Egg Villa). Many other towns and cities also invite you to take a walk round their streets and discover, on your own or as part of a guided tour, where and how the middle-class families that played a leading role in the Industrial Revolution lived. The list is long: in Mataró, there is the **Casa Coll i Regàs**; in La Garriga, **Casa Barbey**<sup>(4)</sup>; and in Argentona, **Casa Garí**. The **former head offices of the Caixa Sabadell** savings bank are a veritable filigree of stained glass, wrought-iron decorations and sculptures. In Terrassa you can find the **Masia Freixa**<sup>(1)</sup>, located in Sant Jordi Park; and in La Porxada Square in Granollers, **Casa Clapés** will catch your eye with its blue colour and the decorations on its facade. In Sant Feliu de Llobregat you will also find examples of this architectural style, such as **Plaça de l'Estació**, various houses and the cemetery.

El Vallès and El Maresme were the favoured places to spend the summer months. A good climate and thermal springs brought many bourgeois families to locations such as Argentona, Canet de Mar, Cardedeu and La Garriga, where you can travel back in time and walk through the **Illa Raspall**, a collection of four Modernista houses. And in Cerdanyola del Vallès, in the **Can Domènech Art Museum**<sup>(2)</sup>, the *Ladies of the Tulips* and the *Ladies of the Lake* await you, two of the most spectacular stained glass windows of Catalan Modernisme.

<http://www.sjdespi.net>

[www.casacolliregas.cat](http://www.casacolliregas.cat)

<http://ca.sabadell.cat/Turisme>

<http://visitaterrassa.cat>

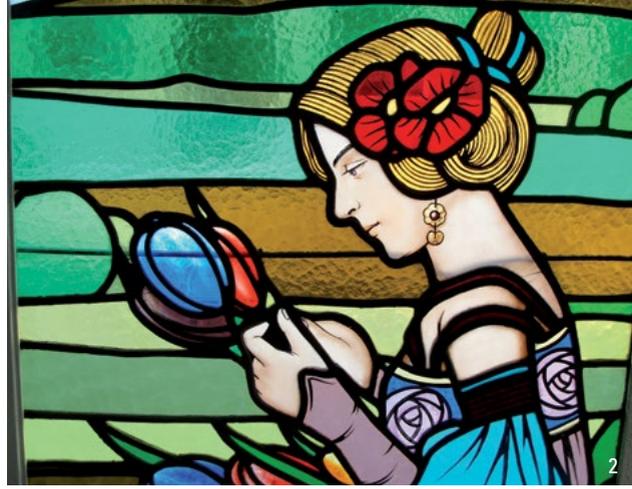
<http://visitgranollers.com>

<http://turisme.elbaixllobregat.cat>

[www.visitalagarriga.cat](http://www.visitalagarriga.cat)

[www.cerdanyola.cat](http://www.cerdanyola.cat)

But Modernisme isn't just a thing of the past. It is a legacy that is regularly revived in the celebrations that different towns organise throughout the year and that, for one weekend, bring back the clothes, the trades, the vehicles and the customs of that time in a high-spirited and festive atmosphere that attracts a multitude of visitors. You can join in if you go to the **Terrassa Modernista Fair**, the **Canet de Mar Modernista Fair** or the **Güell Colony Modernisme Festival**. Oh yes, you have to come in costume!



[www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat/modernisme](http://www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat/modernisme)  
<http://visitaterrassa.cat/en/fira-modernista>  
[www.canetdemar.cat/firamodernista](http://www.canetdemar.cat/firamodernista)  
[www.coloniamodernista.cat](http://www.coloniamodernista.cat)



## Don't miss it

In Barcelona, Eusebi Güell commissioned Gaudí to build a palace near La Rambla that is today listed as World Heritage by UNESCO and that is known as **Güell Palace**<sup>(5)</sup>. Come and see how this new treatment of light and space was introduced for the first time into a family home. Along with guided visits, there are many proposals to make you feel a special guest.

<http://palauguell.cat>



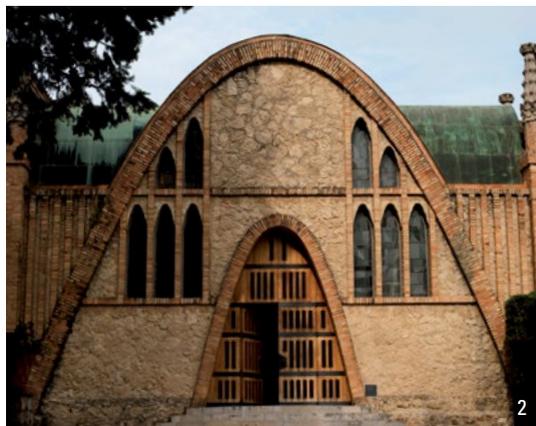
## FACTORIES AND WINERIES THAT ARE NOW MUSEUMS

Have you ever seen the sea from a rooftop? Take a trip to Terrassa and admire the waves on the roof of the **Vapor Aymerich, Amat i Jover<sup>(1)</sup>** factory, nowadays converted into the **Museum of Science and Industry of Catalonia<sup>(3)</sup>**. This is one of the many examples of magnificent constructions that were built in the past and that today help us understand the industrialisation, the ambition and the aesthetic direction of the leading figures.

Another example of fusion between industry and Modernisme can be found in the so-called wine or cava 'cathedrals', impressive sites where the beauty of the exposed brick, the ceramics and the huge arches seem to give a foretaste of the quality of their contents. A pleasant visit on the local train to the **Codorníu's Winery<sup>(2)</sup>**, the work of Puig i Cadafalch, rounded off with a cava tasting, will no doubt substantiate this initial impression!

The **Sedó Colony<sup>(4)</sup>** in Esparreguera is different from other cotton colonies, or villages, because of its large size. In the turbine room you can see a scale model of the colony, which explains its history.

[www.mnactec.cat](http://www.mnactec.cat)  
[www.codorniu.com](http://www.codorniu.com)  
[www.freixenet.es](http://www.freixenet.es)  
[www.santsadurni.cat](http://www.santsadurni.cat)  
[www.esparreguera.cat/turisme/coloniasedo.html](http://www.esparreguera.cat/turisme/coloniasedo.html)





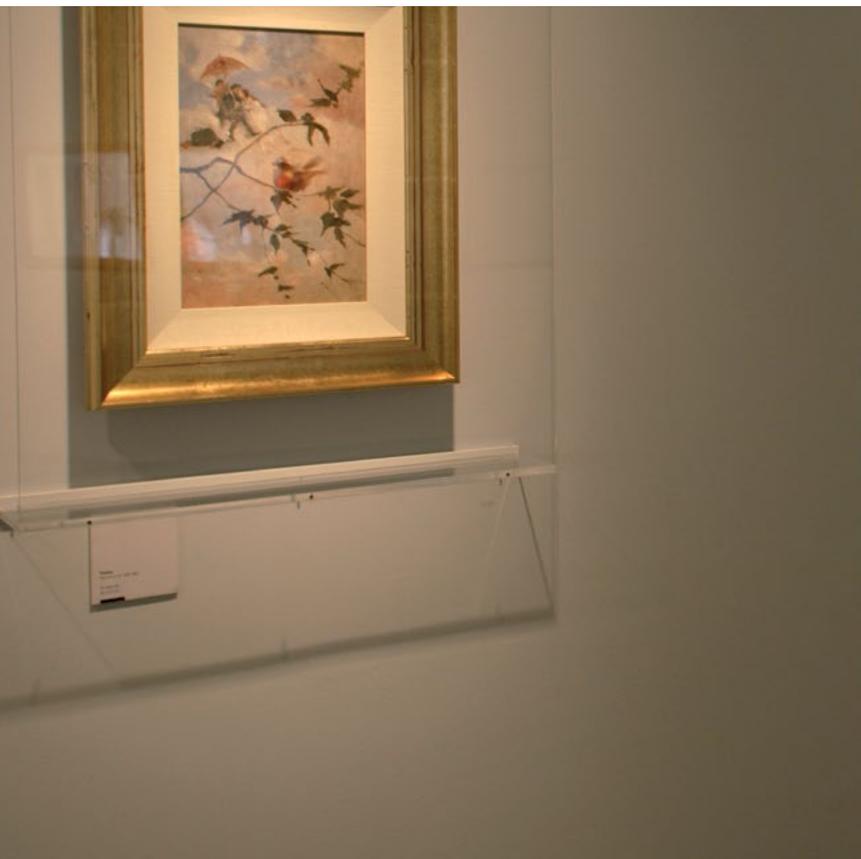
## Don't miss it

Do you know where they make the beautiful tiles that decorate many Modernista buildings? Come to **La Rajoleta Ceramic Museum**<sup>(5)</sup>, in Esplugues de Llobregat, and discover how they managed to create a stunning garden with these original ceramic pieces.

[www.museus.esplugues.cat](http://www.museus.esplugues.cat)

# ARTISTS AND THEIR LANDSCAPE

Deciduous woods that during autumn deck the landscape in browns, reds and greens, cliffs on the coast that conceal small coves, fishing villages that still retain the white facades of the houses... Thousands of images that have captivated numerous artists.



## ON THE TRAIL OF PICASSO

Come to **Gósol**, in El Berguedà: more than one hundred years ago, Picasso painted the landscape here with paintbrushes and tubes of paint. In Caldes d'Estrac, the **Palau Foundation**<sup>(1)</sup> has a floor named Estimat Picasso dedicated to him, that houses more than fifty works, the fruits of the relationship between the painter and the writer Josep Palau i Fabre. And in Caldes de Montbui, the **Thermalia Museum** exhibits pieces by artist Manolo Hugué, and also sculptures, drawings and lithographs by his friend Picasso.

<http://gosol.ddl.net>  
[www.fundaciopalau.cat](http://www.fundaciopalau.cat)  
[www.visiteucaldes.cat](http://www.visiteucaldes.cat)

## CREATORS IN THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTS

*Indianos* (people who left Spain and made it rich in the colonies), burnt rum, habaneras... This Romanticism can be sensed whilst walking through some towns and villages in El Garraf, especially in Sitges, where you can visit the **Can Llopis Romanticism Museum**. On the outskirts of Vilanova i la Geltrú, a beautiful garden of palm trees beckons you to enter the Masia d'en Cabanyes, the house of the poet **Manuel de Cabanyes**, now converted into a **Romanticism Interpretation Centre**, where you can admire the original furniture and the surprising decor, and discover more about the man and his times.

There's no better way to get to know and enjoy a region than by doing so at the hand of the artists who lived there and loved it. Over time, relationships have been forged between creators and their landscapes that make one name inseparable from the other: **Jacint Verdaguer** and his birth town of Folgueroles; **Josep Maria Sert**<sup>(2)</sup> and the city of Vic, where he left his highly individual mark; **Joan Abelló** and Mollet del Vallès, or **Jaume Muxart** and Martorell are pairs that speak most highly of one another.

And in Sitges, the artist **Santiago Rusiñol**, along with others, settled here and turned his home, **Cau Ferrat**, into a meeting place for poets, painters, musicians and intellectuals at the end of the 19th century. Follow the Modernista route and contemplate the personal stamp each artist left on the works that were built thanks to the fortunes of people known as *Indianos*, Spanish citizens who returned rich from Spanish colonies and adorned the streets of their towns with their houses displaying a Modernista aesthetic.

<http://museusdesitges.cat>  
[www.masiadencabanyes.cat](http://www.masiadencabanyes.cat)  
[www.verdaguer.cat](http://www.verdaguer.cat)  
[www.victurisme.cat](http://www.victurisme.cat)  
[www.museuabello.cat](http://www.museuabello.cat)



### Don't miss it

Can Papiol, in Vilanova i la Geltrú, is much more than a house: it is the symbol of an entire family lineage. Behind its austere Neoclassical facade hide opulent rooms, decorated with the most luxurious of details that in their time played host to the very best of local society. The house, now converted into the **Can Papiol Romanticism Museum**, receives visitors throughout almost the entire year and organises guided tours in groups.

[www.museucanpapiol.cat](http://www.museucanpapiol.cat)

# MUSEUMS TO DISCOVER

Small jewels with collections that explain the life of the entire village, utensils used in daily life, traces of the industry that was established there and the passion of many people to conserve, collect, order and show the public everything that they love so much.



## SCIENCE AND MUSEUMS

Granollers is home to the **Natural Science Museum<sup>(1)</sup>**, where you can learn about palaeontology, botany, meteorology and particularly zoology. One of the activities that the museum organises is bird-watching in the small wetlands in the natural area of Can Cabanyes.

Cornellà de Llobregat has the perfect museum to visit with the youngest members of the family: the **Museum of Mathematics of Catalonia**. This centre, located in Can Mercader Palace, organises visits for children and shows them the fun side of maths.

[www.museugranollersciencies.org](http://www.museugranollersciencies.org)

[www.mmaca.cat](http://www.mmaca.cat)

## CONSERVING TRADITION

Thanks to the curiosity, initiative and avid collecting habits of many individuals, we are nowadays able to enjoy exhibits and compilations of products of all types that catch the eye, like the hundreds of display tiles that are exhibited at **Can Tinturé** Museum, in Esplugues: a real aesthetic joy.

Come to **Argentona**<sup>(2)</sup> and discover a collection of more than 4,000 pitchers, from Bronze Age specimens up to a small model decorated by Picasso. Visit Cardedeu, admire the Art Nouveau buildings, sample the delicious *carquinyolis* (almond biscuits), go to the **Tomàs Balvey Museum-Archive**<sup>(3)</sup> and the Casa Daurella, and visit a 19th pharmacy with cabinets full of pots and glass bottles that still contain balms and compounds.

If you want to learn everything there is to know about wine, still as present in our culture as it was in the times of the Iberians and that today forms such a large part of our landscape, our after-dinner conversations and our celebrations, come to **VINSEUM**<sup>(4)</sup>, the Catalan Wine Cultures Museum. The visit, the suggestions of things to do and the tastes are a real delight!

[www.museus.esplugues.cat](http://www.museus.esplugues.cat)

[www.museucantir.org](http://www.museucantir.org)

[www.vinseum.cat](http://www.vinseum.cat)

[www.diba.cat/web/opc/museuslocals](http://www.diba.cat/web/opc/museuslocals)



## Don't miss it

Dining outdoors in the gardens of the **Tomàs Balvey Museum-Archive** in Cardedeu, whilst listening to a summer concert, or a musical evening enjoying the **Summer Nights of Badalona**, with a visit to the **Anís del Mono liqueur factory**<sup>(5)</sup>. These are some of the many musical proposals that you will find in the museums in the various districts of Barcelona.

[www.museudecardedeu.cat](http://www.museudecardedeu.cat)

[www.museudebadalona.cat](http://www.museudebadalona.cat)

# OLD PROFESSIONS

Factories in disuse, abandoned mines, stopped trains, mills that have ceased grinding... a good showcase to reveal how industrial society has changed. Everything that we see and have today started out very differently. Come and get to know our past.

## COPPER, COTTON, WATER AND CEMENT

How is the copper wire made that brings electricity into our homes? The **La Farga Lacambra** factory, in Les Masies de Voltregà, still continues to work with copper. Come and see it in operation.

The former Sanglas factory, nowadays the **El Ter Museum**<sup>(2)</sup>, features two turbines that used to spin cotton into thread and that still work today. And in Premià de Mar, in a beautiful building somewhere between Neoclassical and Modernista style, learn how to print fabrics just like many men and women used to do in this seafaring and textile town that today is home to the **Fabric Printing Museum**.

The power of water drove industry, but machinery also served to extract and pump water to the distribution networks. You can see all this and understand more if you visit the old pump house or **Casa de les Aigües** in Montcada i Reixac or the **Agbar Museum**<sup>(1)</sup> in Cornellà de Llobregat, as well as also enjoying their Modernista gardens and sites.

The Asland Cement Factory closed its doors thirty years ago, but can now be visited thanks to an interpretation centre and an outdoor trail that takes you through the industrial ruins of the factory, converted into the **Asland Cement Museum** (Castellar de n'Hug) in a unique natural set.

[www.museudelcoure.com](http://www.museudelcoure.com)

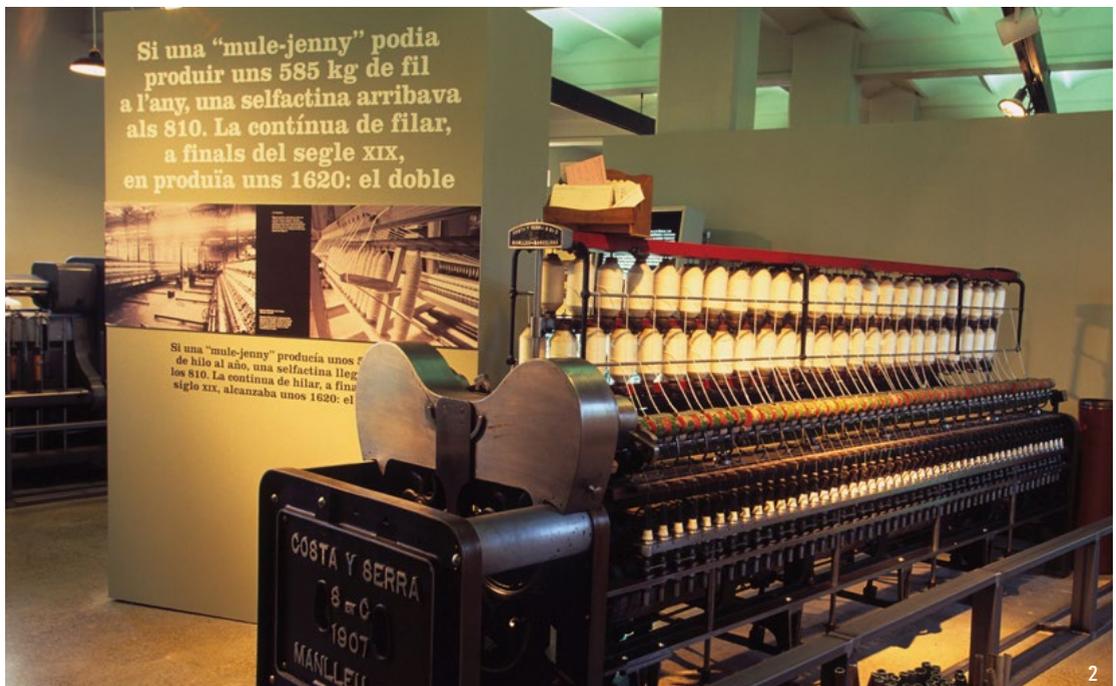
[www.museudelter.cat](http://www.museudelter.cat)

[www.museuestampacio.org](http://www.museuestampacio.org)

[www.montcada.cat](http://www.montcada.cat)

[www.museuagbar.com](http://www.museuagbar.com)

[www.museuciment.cat](http://www.museuciment.cat)





## ARTS AND TRADES

In the **Capellades Paper Mill Museum**<sup>(2)</sup> you will learn that paper hasn't always been made from trees, but also from old rags and plant leaves. You can even make a sheet of paper, just like they used to do hundreds of years ago.

The **Muleteer's Museum - Antoni Ros Collection**, in Igualada, is an authentic centre for the study of arts and trades applied to the world of transport in modern Catalonia, explaining the evolution of transport of both goods and people, with the help of animals and carriages and carts.



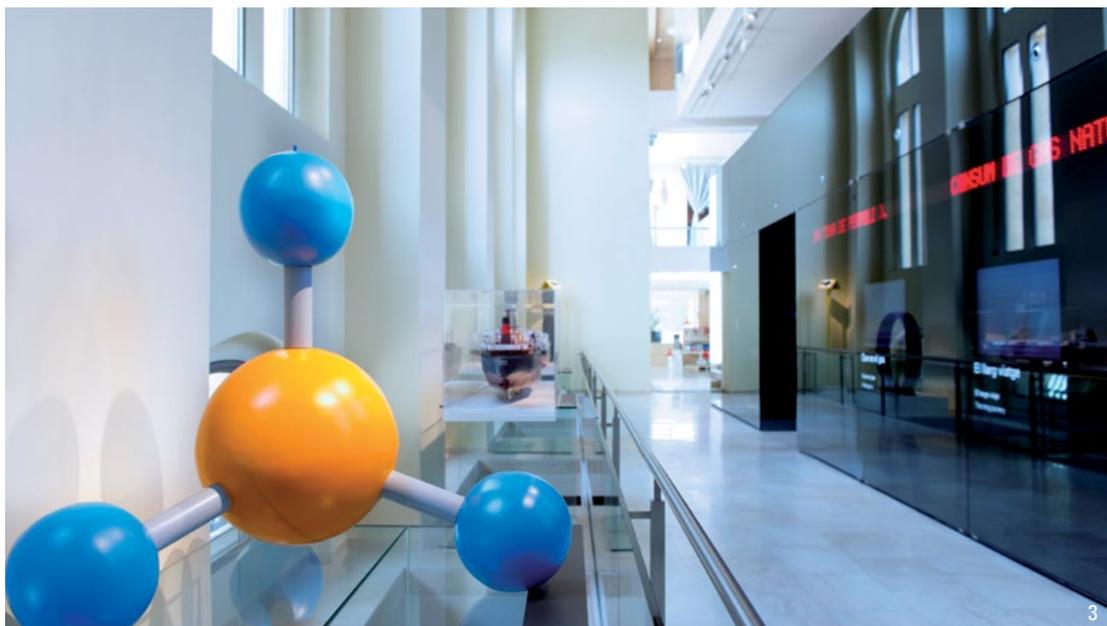
[www.trendelciment.cat](http://www.trendelciment.cat)  
[www.mmp-capellades.net](http://www.mmp-capellades.net)  
[www.museudeltraginer.com](http://www.museudeltraginer.com)

Climb aboard old wagons from the **Cercs Mines**<sup>(1)</sup> in El Berguedà and relive the hardships endured whilst working in a coal mine. Very close by, you can also walk through the **Sant Corneli Colony**, a workers' village that stands testament to family histories, and to the needs and hopes of this mining community.

Another obligatory stop is the **Sabadell Gas Museum**<sup>(3)</sup>, where you can discover the history of the gas industry thanks to a permanent exhibition. They offer family activities and workshops for all ages.

[www.mmcercs.cat](http://www.mmcercs.cat)

[www.fundaciongasnaturalfenosa.org](http://www.fundaciongasnaturalfenosa.org)



## Don't miss it

Textile colonies proliferated along the banks of the Llobregat River during the 19th century. These were small villages that surrounded the factory, where everyone had their place. Relive this ambience in the **Vidal Colony**<sup>(4)</sup>, in Puig-reig, visiting the villa of the former owners, the church, the boys' and girls' schools, the supplies store and the workers' houses.

[www.museucoloniviadal.org](http://www.museucoloniviadal.org)

# FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Have fun with the children! There are lots of suggestions of things to do with the kids. Come and explore **Catalunya en Miniatura<sup>(1)</sup>**, in Torrelles de Llobregat, and its adventure park; take a walk through the **Llobregat Delta** and observe the waterfowl from the hides, or go inside a **salt mine<sup>(2)</sup>** in Cardona and discover a magical landscape.



[www.catalunyaenminiatura.com](http://www.catalunyaenminiatura.com)  
[www.portadeldelta.cat](http://www.portadeldelta.cat)  
<http://cardonaturisme.cat>

## DINOSAURS AND TRAINS

Even though they became extinct around sixty million years ago, dinosaurs have left plenty of signs of their existence behind. This is how we know that there were small ones and big ones: well, more than just big – gigantic! In an old open-cast coal mine in **Fumanya** in El Berguedà, an impressive site has been discovered with thousands of footprints that simply must be visited.

Without leaving El Berguedà, you can go for a ride on the **Cement Train**<sup>(3)</sup> from La Pobla de Lillet to the factory in **Clot del Moro**, travelling through a thrilling landscape, stopping at Gaudí's **Artigas Gardens** and visiting the Modernista factory and current **Cement Museum**.

Go from Vilanova i la Geltrú to the **Railway Museum**<sup>(4)</sup>, climb on board a luxury carriage and see if the **Mataró** locomotive still starts and gives off lots of steam!



[www.dinosauresfumanya.com](http://www.dinosauresfumanya.com)  
[www.crip.cat](http://www.crip.cat)  
[www.neancapellades.cat](http://www.neancapellades.cat)  
[www.trendelciment.cat](http://www.trendelciment.cat)  
[www.museuciment.cat](http://www.museuciment.cat)  
<http://museudelferrocarril.org>



### Don't miss it

Another interesting proposal is a visit to the permanent exhibition on the clown **Charlie Rivel** in Cubelles, where the personal collection of this universal Catalan clown will bring you closer to the wonderful world of the circus.

<http://charlierivel.cubelles.cat>

If you want more, you can find other suggestions for your family in the various districts of Barcelona here:

[www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat](http://www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat)

# CULTURE AND NATURE

Imagine that behind a bend, or on a hilltop where the excursion takes you, you find castles, watchtowers, churches, museums, Modernista palaces or prehistoric monuments. Walking through the natural parks and protected sites will urge you to want to get to know the history and culture of the places you are passing through. This and lots more awaits you in the different regions of Barcelona.

## NATURAL CULTURE

The **Geological and Mining Park of Central Catalonia**, known as the Central Catalonia Geopark, includes and explains extraordinary curiosities such as the **El Toll Caves** and the present-day reliefs of the former deltas of **Montserrat** and **Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac**. These two natural parks, with a fascinating landscape, conceal within their interior a subterranean world that is almost unknown: a diverse range of chasms and caves that pierce the stone. Most notable is the **Saltpetre Cave<sup>(1)</sup>**, in Collbató, renowned for being the one that gives the best overview of the history of Catalan cave study and exploration as well as its spectacular appearance, which over the years fascinated and inspired artists such as Santiago Rusiñol, Ramon Casas, Jacint Verdaguer and, according to tradition, Antoni Gaudí.

And if you want to walk around a genuine open-air museum, in Cabriels you will find the **Arboretum of Catalonia**. All the trees that are native to Catalonia can be found within its 38,000 square metres.

The **Pujalt Observatory** is a research and teaching centre for meteorology and astronomy. Situated at 750 m above sea level, it offers excellent visibility permitting the study of both disciplines. Here, guided visits and astronomical observations are on offer.

[www.geoparc.cat](http://www.geoparc.cat)

[www.montserratvisita.com](http://www.montserratvisita.com)

<http://parcs.diba.cat/web/SantLlorenç>

[www.collbato.cat](http://www.collbato.cat)

<http://ursusnatura.wordpress.com/arboretum>

[www.observatoridepujalt.cat](http://www.observatoridepujalt.cat)

## CULTURE AND NATURAL PARKS

Poetry and nature have always been united in the voice and works of different poets and writers who, over time, have extolled the diversity and richness of the landscapes that were closest to them. The Poetry in the Parks programme was born in 2005 with precisely this objective: to present poetry in protected natural areas. Discover the Verdaguer literary route in the Guillerries-Savassona Natural Area, and that of the poet Miquel Martí i Pol in Roda de Ter (Osona). Music beside the Vallvidrera Reservoir, swing and drinks in **Montesquiu Castle gardens**<sup>(2)</sup>... all this and much more, with nature as the backdrop, in Poetry in the Parks. Shall we go?

In Sant Llorenç del Munt i l'Obac Natural Park, amongst oak woods, cliffs and monoliths, is the Flequer Valley, that holds tantalising surprises such as vineyard huts and the extraordinary group of **dry stone vats**, the Tines de L'Escudelleta and the Tines d'en Ricardo. These places were formerly used to make wine at vineyards that were too far away from the villages.

<http://parcs.diba.cat>

<http://parcs.diba.cat/web/montesquiu>

<http://parcs.diba.cat/poesia-als-parcs>

[www.viuelparc.org](http://www.viuelparc.org)



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### Don't miss it

Situated in an exceptional natural area in the Castelltallat Mountain Range, is the **Castelltallat Observatory**<sup>(3)</sup>, where a 400 mm-aperture telescope reveals to us the wonders of the universe: you can see lunar details of 1 km, as well as observing stars, planet rings, nebulae and galaxies. Guided visits are offered, by appointment.

[www.observatoricastelltallat.com](http://www.observatoricastelltallat.com)

# FESTIVALS

We like being out in the street, enjoying them when it's good weather, walking along them, and having a refreshment in the evening on a terrace. And what's more, we love music, theatre, the circus... Throughout the whole year, but especially in the spring and summer, the parks, castle courtyards, museum terraces and squares fill with musical notes, acrobatics, laughter and lots and lots of people. You're invited to come along!



[www.femap.cat](http://www.femap.cat)  
[www.fimc.es](http://www.fimc.es)  
[www.santaflorentina.com](http://www.santaflorentina.com)  
[www.fiorgue.com](http://www.fiorgue.com)  
[www.jazztarrassa.org](http://www.jazztarrassa.org)  
<http://vijazzpenedes.com>  
[www.festivalaltaveu.cat](http://www.festivalaltaveu.cat)  
[www.mmvv.cat](http://www.mmvv.cat)  
<http://firamediterrania.cat>

## MUSIC

Come to the **Pyrenees Early Musical Festival** that takes place every summer in El Berguedà in churches, special settings, cloisters, etc., or come to the traditional **Cantonigròs International Music Festival**, in the County of Osona, with the exhibition of choirs and dance groups from around the world. In the **Santa Florentina Castle** in Canet de Mar, classical music is played to serenade the long summer evenings. And in Mataró, in July, visit the Basilica of Santa Maria or the Carmelite Convent and enjoy the music of a unique instrument: the organ.

If jazz is more your style, then here are two unmissable dates: in March and April, Terrassa holds its **International Jazz Festival** with the popular Jazz Picnic in Vallparadís Park; and in July, in Vilafranca del Penedès, **Vijazz<sup>(1)</sup>** is a perfect combination of wine and jazz.

Up-and-coming groups and the most contemporary styles can be found in Sant Boi de Llobregat at the **Altaveu Festival** in September, and the best Catalan groups on the current scene are at the **Vic Live Music Market**.

Heading further into the autumn, the **Manresa Mediterranean Fair** warms the streets, squares and other different locations with shows rooted in tradition

## THEATRE, CIRCUS, PUPPETS AND CLOWNS

In April, come to **La Mostra**, a theatre festival for children and adults that takes place in Igualada. If you like puppets, in Mollet del Vallès the squares are packed for the **International Puppet Show**<sup>(2)</sup>. In July, the name says it all: **Street Festival!** in Viladecans, where you can share streets and squares with actors, acrobats, comedians and a desire for merrymaking in general. And right in the heart of El Montseny there is more music, poetry, circus and clowns at the **Cric Circus Festival** with the charismatic Catalan clown, Tortell Poltrona. To round off, and with views of the sea, your sides will ache with laughter at the **Ple de Riure International Comedy Theatre Festival**, in Masnou.

If you are one of those who thinks that clowns are exclusively for children, that's because you still haven't been to the **International Clown Festival**<sup>(3)</sup> that takes place every two years in Cornellà de Llobregat and that started out as a tribute to the Catalan clown Charlie Rivel.



<http://lamostraigualada.cat>  
[www.alcarrerviladecans.com](http://www.alcarrerviladecans.com)  
<http://circcric.com>  
[www.plederiure.cat](http://www.plederiure.cat)  
[www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat](http://www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat)  
[www.festivaldepallassos.com](http://www.festivaldepallassos.com)



# FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

We are a region with a thousand-year-old history that conserves and engages in its festivals and traditions with a passion. This is why we enjoy the good Mediterranean climate, the sea and the landscape with a festive and joyous spirit.

## FROM FESTIVAL TO FESTIVAL

You can fill your calendar going from festival to festival, from town to town, and enjoy age-old traditions that survive to this day thanks to the passion of the locals. Around Christmas time, look out for the exhibition of nativity scenes, fairs displaying Christmas decorations and the living nativity scenes, where a large part of the town represent scenes depicting the birth of Jesus. The oldest in Catalonia is that of **Corbera de Llobregat**.

On Sant Antoni (Saint Anthony's Day), don't miss the **Festa dels Tres Tombs** (Three Turns Festival), where tradition has it that you pass round inside the town three times with horses, carts and other animals; you can see this in Igualada, Vilanova i la Geltrú and other locations.

During **Carnival**<sup>(1)</sup>, Vilanova i la Geltrú fills with tomfoolery and merriment and competes with its neighbour Sitges in originality and irreverence. If you want to experience Carnival first-hand, make sure you take a trip there...in fancy dress, of course!

<http://pessebrecorbera.cat>  
[www.federaciotrestombs.cat](http://www.federaciotrestombs.cat)  
[www.carnavaldevilanova.cat](http://www.carnavaldevilanova.cat)  
[www.sitges.cat/carnaval](http://www.sitges.cat/carnaval)

## PROCESSIONS AND ROSES

After the festival come the gatherings and processions of Holy Week. Visit the **Passion Play of the Armed Soldiers** in Mataró, or the **Passion Plays of Olesa de Montserrat** and **Esparreguera**. They all present a grand spectacle. Another great show takes place during Easter Holy Week in Vic with its **Mercat del Ram**, a market with livestock, gastronomy fairs and guided tours.

And for **Sant Jordi**<sup>(2)</sup> (Saint George's Day) why not head out for a walk? Stalls with books and roses, literary activities, popular culture and people, lots of people. Everyone is out on the street with books and roses for the ones they love.

<https://elsarmatsdemataro.blogspot.com.es>  
[www.lapassio.cat](http://www.lapassio.cat)  
[www.lapassio.net](http://www.lapassio.net)  
[www.victurisme.cat](http://www.victurisme.cat)



2

## CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVALS

Plans for June? Well, forget them and come to Berga, to **La Patum**, the festival of festivals that takes place during the day of Corpus Christi: fire, music, fantastic animals and an invigorating dance that makes the whole square come alive.

We also invite you to take a gentle stroll through Sitges, **La Garriga**<sup>(3)</sup> or Sallent, in the streets that are decorated with carpets of flowers.

Have you ever seen an egg dance? Without the **Dancing Egg** there is no Corpus Christi! The most famous is in Barcelona Cathedral, but you can find many more in other towns and cities.

[www.lapatum.cat](http://www.lapatum.cat)



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## SANT JOAN AND THE *FESTES MAJORS*

And so **Sant Joan**<sup>(1)</sup> (Saint John's Eve) arrives, the great celebration that marks the beginning of summer: bonfires, merrymaking on the beaches and streets in the evenings, firecrackers, fireworks, cake and champagne. Don't miss this brilliant festival of festivals, that heralds that start of all the *festes majors*, or local annual festivals, of which we can recommend many: Les **Santes of Mataró**, the **Vilanova i la Geltrú Festa Major** in honour of Our Lady of the Snows, that of Vilafranca del Penedès to mark **Saint Felix' Day**, where spectacular *castells*, or human towers, are built. And at the **Granollers Festa Major**, which *colla*, or human tower group, will win this year? The whites or the blues?

<http://lessantes.cat>

[www.festamajorvilanova.cat](http://www.festamajorvilanova.cat)

[www.festamajorvilafranca.cat](http://www.festamajorvilafranca.cat)

[www.granollers.cat/festamajor](http://www.granollers.cat/festamajor)

## GRAPE HARVESTING AND PANELLETS

Towards September, the grapevines present a magnificent spectacle and the region rings to the sound of grape-harvesting festivals: Alella, Sant Sadurn d'Anoia, Vilafranca del Penedès, Sitges, Artés and others all invite you to celebrate the new wine and give thanks for the harvest.

Gastronomy is also celebrating. We like good wine and good food. Do you? Have you ever tasted chestnuts from El Montseny? Do you know how to look for mushrooms? Or how to make marzipan sweets called **panellets**<sup>(2)</sup>? They are always a welcome treat, and in the autumn, when the cold starts, there's nothing better to enjoy during after-dinner conversations. Bon appétit!



[www.alella.cat/festaverema](http://www.alella.cat/festaverema)  
[www.visitsitges.com](http://www.visitsitges.com)  
[www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat](http://www.barcelonaesmoltmes.cat)



### Don't miss it

For the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the patron saint of sailors, some coastal towns and villages organise processions at sea. Climb aboard and experience one of the most captivating celebrations by sea folk, in Vilanova i la Geltrú, **Sitges**<sup>(3)</sup>, Arenys de Mar, Caldes d'Estrac and other coastal towns.



**Photos:** Antonio Guillén, Osona Tourism Archives, El Berguedà Development Agency Archives, Sitges Tourist Board Archives, Cornellà de Llobregat Council Archives, Mollet del Vallès Council Archives, Sant Cugat del Vallès Council Archives, Terrassa Council Archives, Castelllatalat Observatory Archives, La Pobla de Lillet Tourist Board Archives, Barcelona District Council Archives, La Farga Lacambra Archives, Palau Foundation Archives, L'Anoia County Council Archives, El Vallès Oriental County Council Archives, El Maresme Tourism Promotion Consortium Archives, El Baix Llobregat Tourism Promotion Consortium Archives, El Vallès Oriental Tourism Consortium Archives, Món Sant Benet Archives, Tomás Balvey Museum-Archive Archives, Sabadell Gas Museum Archives, Blai Córdia, Fotoedu / iStock / Thinkstock, Gonzalo Sanguinetti, Jordi Puig, Josep Cano, Manel Cuesta, Manel Escobet (Foto Luigi), Marc Vila, Montserrat Baldomà, OhDigital, Óscar Roubag, Pere Jiménez and Ricardo de la Riva.



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CULTURE AND NATURE

FESTIVALS

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