

Castilla-La Mancha

THE LARGEST VINEYARD IN THE WORLD



Castilla-La Mancha



RUTAS DEL VINO
CASTILLA-LA MANCHA



RUTAS DEL VINO CASTILLA-LA MANCHA



You are holding the key to unique and unforgettable **travel experiences for wine lovers**. These pages feature inspiration for trips to destinations bursting with amazing landscapes and places.

Because this is the essence of **Castilla-La Mancha**: surprising, unique and one of a kind.

Exploring this region through its six **WINE ROUTES** certified as **Wine Routes** of Spain means travelling while enjoying nature, heritage, gastronomy, and of course, the local wines. Do so as a couple, with friends, with the family, and all year round, because in every month, in every season, Castilla-La Mancha's Wine Routes are a great idea.

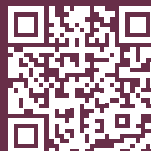
The creation of the **Spanish Wine Routes** tourism product is the result of the work from **ACEVIN** (the Spanish

Wine Cities Association) and has received support from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It has been designed to

help travellers discover **a different side of Spain and enjoy unique experiences**.

The Wine Routes of Spain are located in **wine-growing areas** operating for years under the guidance of

the Spanish Administration and ACEVIN to create memorable experiences for travellers seeking a **new tourism concept based on wine culture**.







THE WINE IN CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

Castilla-La Mancha is wine territory par excellence. Vineyards flood its plains and grapes form part of the local people's DNA; even its history has been forged in the heat of one of its most iconic signs of identity. Castilla-La Mancha's wines travel the world every day and can be found in every country. We are ***the world's largest vineyard***, and this translates into exceptional production and quality. However, wine is more than just numbers.

Wine is an experience from the harvest to uncorking a bottle. Therefore, we want you to experience the process first hand, to see where our most famous bottles come from, and to savour the flavour of each drop of varieties with personality, character and great stories to tell.



Museo Torre del Vino, Soduellamos (Ciudad Real).



WINE TOURISM & EXPERIENCES



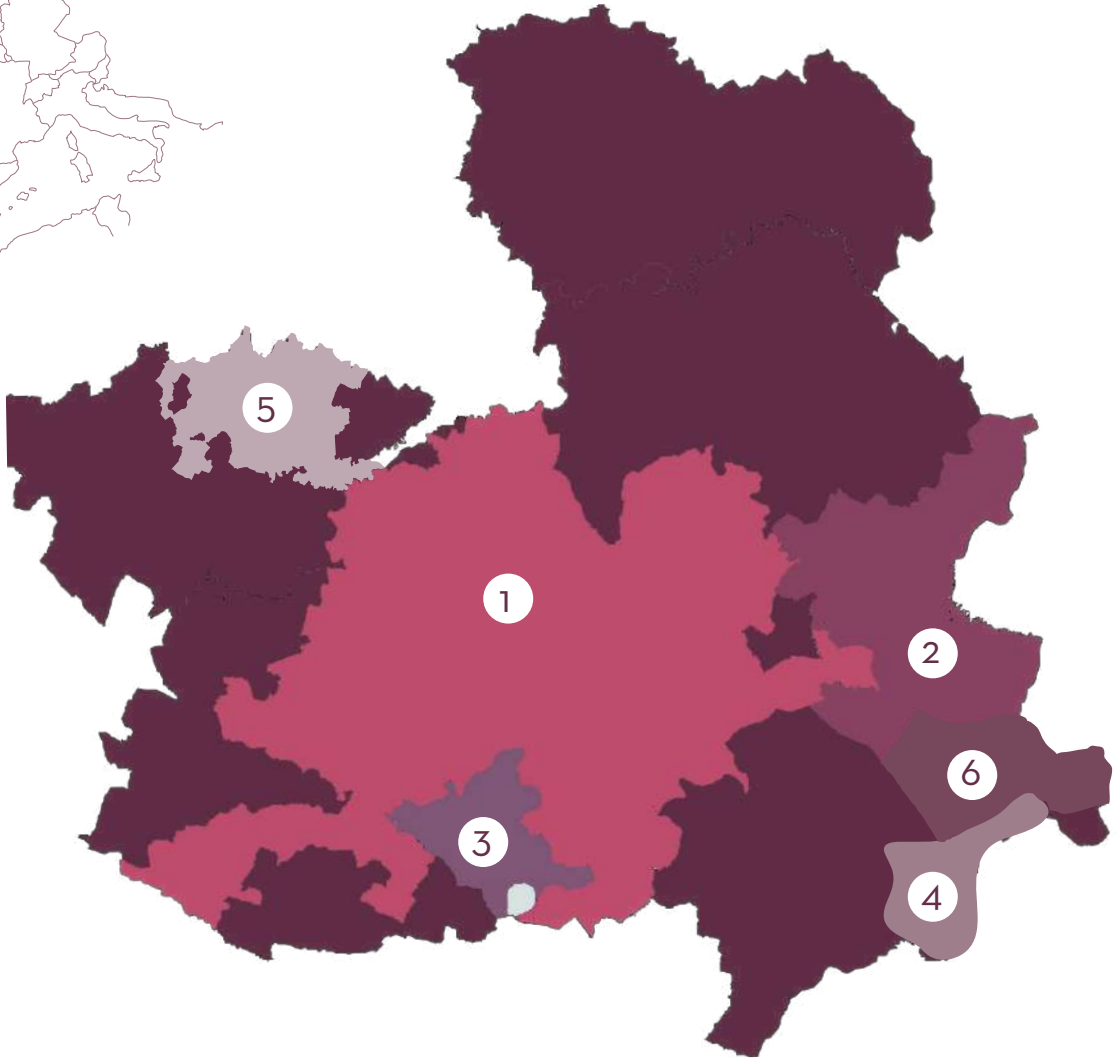
The following pages contain information about the **six wine routes of Castilla-La Mancha**: La Mancha Wine Route, in the provinces of Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca and Toledo; La Manchuela Wine Route, in the provinces of Albacete and Cuenca; Valdepeñas Wine Route, in Ciudad Real province; Méntrida-Toledo Wine Route, in the province that gives it its

name; the Jumilla Wine Route, in Albacete province and shared with the neighbouring region of Murcia; and the Almansa Wine Route, in Albacete province.

Visit each one through their websites or by scanning the QR code, and enter a world of **extremely enjoyable and highly appetising travel options**.



CASTILLA-LA MANCHA WINE ROUTES



¹ LA MANCHA

www.rutadelvinodelamancha.com



² LA MANCHUELA

www.rutadelvinolamanchuela.com



³ VALDEPEÑAS

www.rutadelvinodevaldepenas.com



⁴ JUMILLA

www.rutadelvinojumilla.com



⁵ MÉNTRIDA-TOLEDO

www.rutadelvinomentridatoledo.es



⁶ ALMANSA

www.rutavinoalmanza.com



LA MANCHA WINE ROUTE



The ten villages comprising this “sea of vineyards”, namely the La Mancha Wine Route, are **El Toboso** (Toledo), **Villarrobledo** (Albacete), **Socuéllamos**, **Alcázar de San Juan**, **Tomelloso**, **Campo de Criptana**, **Villarrubia de los Ojos**, **Argamasilla de Alba**, **La Solana** and **Pedro Muñoz** (Ciudad Real) -together with 2 wineries in Cuenca province-; all with ancient wine-making heritage and each an emblematic village of La Mancha, preserving farmhouses, wineries, caves, chimneys, and traditional ‘bombo’-style houses, representing popular rural architectural highlights. These not only embellish and decorate the lands of this natural region, but also confer its unique identity.

Here, enjoy first-hand the world of wine with the native varieties -Airén, Tempranillo- or imported -Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon- when visiting the local vineyards and enjoying a guided tour with tasting.

The must-sees: the Tinajera Pottery Interpretation Centre in Villarrobledo; the views of the endless La Mancha landscape from the natural lookout point in the town of Villarrubia de los Ojos, and from the tower in the Torre del Vino Museum in Socuéllamos; the Zarzuela (a Spanish lyric-dramatic genre) Week in Villarrobledo in La Solana, Pedro Muñoz’s Manchegan May Day Festivals or the Carnival festivities in Alcázar de San Juan (these three festivals have been declared of National

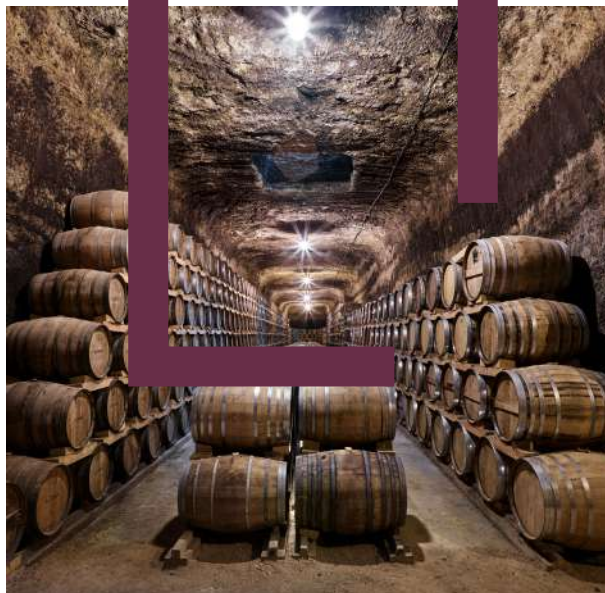


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Tourist Interest); the Cervantine Medrano House in Argamasilla de Alba and the House of Dulcinea in El Toboso; and of course: the Windmills of Campo de Criptana and Alcázar de San Juan.

Experiences: in addition to a wine tour, a picnic in the vineyards or at the winery, a tapas route savouring the cuisine of Don Quixote, a visit to the windmills to learn how they work and their *raison d'être* while sipping an aperitif, a visit to a cheese factory in La Mancha, or a sunset among the vineyards while enjoying a glass of wine next to your loved ones, and every year the “AirénFest”, when the warm weather arrives, combining music and fine wine. Don’t miss out!

Traditional ‘bombo’ architecture in Tomelloso (Ciudad Real).





Medrano Cave, Argamasilla de Alba (Ciudad Real).





Windmills, Alcázar de San Juan (Ciudad Real).



House of Dulcinea, El Toboso (Toledo).

LA MANCHUELA WINE ROUTE



This route includes villages in the provinces of **Albacete and Cuenca**. In Albacete province: **Abengibre, Alatoz, Alborea, Alcalá del Júcar, Balsa de Ves, Carcelén, Casas de Ves, Casas Ibáñez, Cenizate, Fuentealbilla, Jorquera, Mahora, Motilleja, Navas de Jorquera, Pozo Lorente, Valdeganga, Villa de Ves, Villamalea, Villatoya and Casas de Juan Núñez**; and in Cuenca: are **Alarcón, El Herrumblar, Iniesta, Villanueva de la Jara, Motilla del Palancar, Granja de Iniesta, Enguñados, El Peral and Quintanar del Rey**.

Bobal is the native, stand out variety from this region, which produces excellent red wines.

The area straddles two provinces bordering the Spanish Levante; surrounded by **the gorges of the Júcar and Cabriel rivers**, which form rugged and unforgettable landscapes in contrast with the plains and fertile lands used for farming.

The must-sees: the breathtaking views of Alarcón, Jorquera or Alcalá del Júcar; follow in Teresa's footsteps by visiting Villanueva de La Jara where the Saint created her 13th foundation; enjoy the local cuisine with Manchegan gazpacho taking centre stage; the beauty of the Chorreras del Cabriel waterfalls passing through Enguñados; and the banks and gorges of the Júcar River as it flows through Villa de Ves and La Recueja.



Experiences: in addition to visiting the wineries and vineyards, enjoy a day in the countryside and a horse-drawn carriage ride through the vineyards, travel alongside the Júcar River gorge in a tourist train in Alcalá del Júcar, learn about the unique process of mushroom farming (almost half of all Spanish mushroom production takes place in La Manchuela); an active tourism adventure in the Júcar gorges; and stay at and enjoy a relaxing swim or thermal circuit in the region's hotels or rural accommodation.

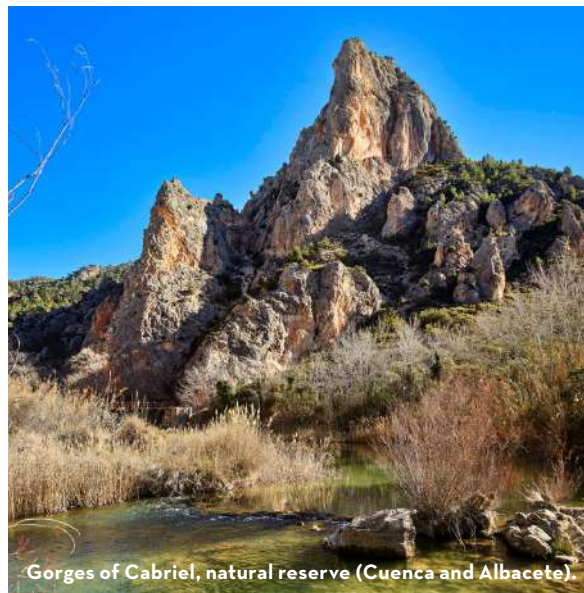




Alarcón (Cuenca).



Archaeological Museum, Iniesta (Cuenca).



Gorges of Cabriel, natural reserve (Cuenca and Albacete).



VALDEPEÑAS WINE ROUTE



The places featured on this route are **Moral de Calatrava, San Carlos del Valle, Santa Cruz de Mudela, Torrenueva**, and the town that gives the Route its name: **Valdepeñas**. The Airén and Cencibel varieties take centre stage in the local wine production

for this area in the south of Ciudad Real province, production rooted in pre-Roman times, confirmed by the archaeological findings at the **Cerro de las Cabezas** site (Castilla-La Mancha archaeological park) IV-VII BC. Therefore, talking about Valdepeñas is synonymous with talking about wines and wine culture.

We recommend: a visit to the Valdepeñas Wine Museum to understand the close link between the history of this town (and the surrounding areas) and wine production; a guided tour to the above-mentioned archaeological park.

Cerro de las Cabezas, next to the A-4 motorway, and one of the finest examples of an Iberian oppidum (fortified settlement); a visit to the square and Sanctuary of Las Virtudes in Santa Cruz de Mudela; and the main square and church of San Carlos del Valle.

Experiences: Delve into the bowels of the earth and discover the underground cellars that flooded the town centre of Valdepeñas, some of which are now excellently preserved; taste the wines in the wineries that make them, learn about the process of making extra virgin olive oil also produced in the area; and enjoy a day of golf followed by a spa session and a well-deserved gastronomic experience in the restaurants along the Route. Because you're worth it!





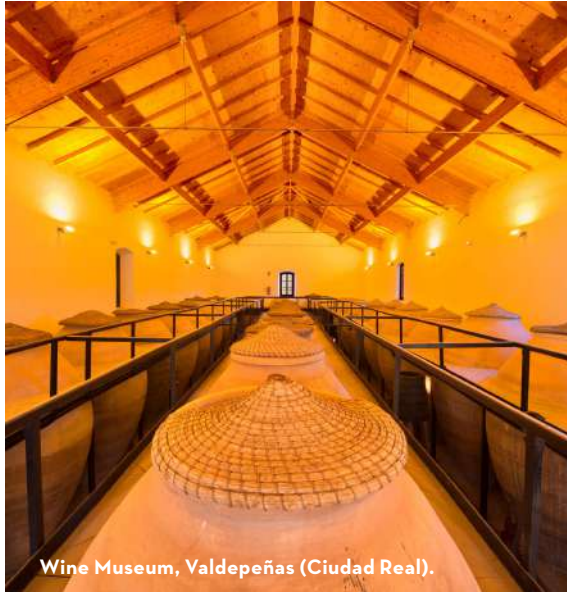
Wine Museum, Valdepeñas (Ciudad Real).



Moral de Calatrava (Ciudad Real).



Cerro de las Cabezas. Archaeological park, Valdepeñas.



MÉNTRIDA - TOLEDO WINE ROUTE



RUTA DEL VINO
Méntrida · Toledo

Eleven municipalities in Toledo province feature in this route: **Méntrida, Torrijos, Camarena, La Torre de Esteban Hambrán, Escalona, Maqueda, Montearagón, Fuensalida, Carmena, Quismondo and Nombela.**

Several wine varieties, both native and foreign, play key roles in wine-making on this route: Garnacha and Syrah, Albillo and Chardonnay, etc. The wines here each have different characteristics, each bottle more personal, but all offer stunning quality.

This route offers the perfect blend between wine and culture, because the places visited are closely linked to the

lands of ancient manors and royal estates, traces of which are still preserved today, allowing visitors to travel back in time. The Chronicles of King Peter Festival relives these times of medieval splendour every March.

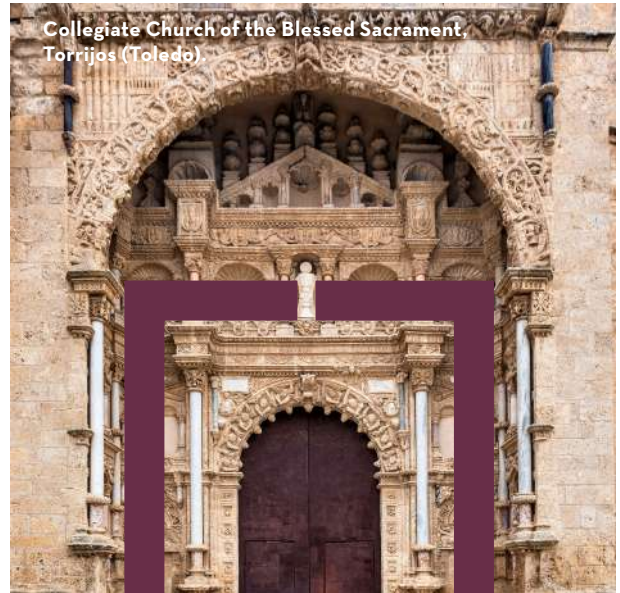
Highly recommended: the Caves of Castillejo and their evocative traditional architecture in Méntrida; a visit to the Palace of King Peter and the Collegiate Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Torrijos, showcasing the architecture of “one of the greats” of the Spanish Renaissance: Alonso de Covarrubias; and the castles of Escalona and Maqueda that



www.rutadelvinomentridatoledo.es

outline part of the route of Lazarillo de Tormes on his way to the imperial city of Toledo.

Experiences: a fun photoshoot for Instagram content, posing alongside the murals dotting the streets of Escalona; guided tours of the route's wineries with wine tastings, Iberian cured meat and cheese tastings, walks in the vineyards; savour the local cuisine in the restaurants along the way, which offer local, carefully procured and highly sought-after gastronomy; and relax with a spa circuit in the hotels along the route after a day of wine tourism. What more can you ask for?



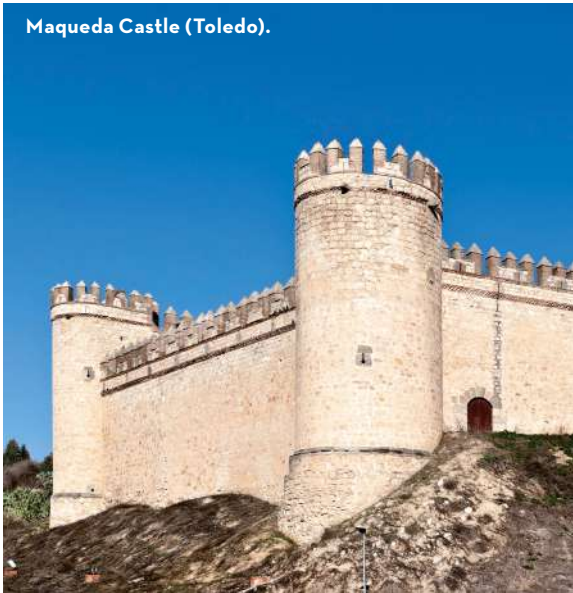




The city of Toledo as seen from the cigarrales.



Maqueda Castle (Toledo).



JUMILLA WINE ROUTE



In the **south of Albacete province**, bordering and merging with neighbouring Murcia, the Jumilla wine route comprises the municipalities of **Fuente Álamo, Hellín, Montealegre del Castillo, Ontur, Tobarra, Albatana and Jumilla**; the last of which gives its name to the route and is geographically located in Murcia.

With its distinctive wines, the Mourvèdre grape gives the destination its own personality and uniqueness. Visitors can immerse themselves in a “360º” world of wine experience. Wineries, wine cellars, wine bars, museums and shops specialising in wine and wine culture can be found on every street corner.

The MEV - “Música ENTRE VINOS” (Music AMONG WINES) cycle combines music, delicious cuisine and excellent wines on spring and summer evenings; Easter in Jumilla and Hellín have been declared of international tourist interest; and the Tamboradas (Drum-Playing Rituals) in Hellín, Tobarra and Agramón have been declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. These are just some of the best times of the year to explore and enjoy this route...

There are many more!

The must-sees: a guided visit to the Wine Museum in Jumilla or the Hacienda del Carche-Casa de la Ermita Wine



Museum should not be missed; a guided tour in Hellín to the Tolmo de Minateda archaeological park and the Abrigo Grande de Minateda with its ancient rock paintings. In Hellín, there is also the MUSS -the Easter and Tamborada Museum-.

Experiences: learn about the wine-making process and the nuances of the Mourvèdre grape variety, and then stay for lunch at the winery; go wine tasting at your own pace, sample delicious cheeses paired with a modern, intense wine; enjoy a wine and gastronomic day; go bar-hopping on “tasting Thursdays” and take home souvenirs including delicious local food... yes, we know you’re getting hungry just thinking about it!



Tamborada (Drum-Playing Ritual) of Hellín and Tobarra (Albacete).



El Tolmo de Minateda Archaeological Park, Hellín (Albacete).





ALMANSA WINE ROUTE



It is in **Albacete** province, the four municipalities comprising this wine route (the most easterly in Castilla-La Mancha) are **Almansa, Alpera, Higuera and Hoya-Gonzalo**.

Verdejo and mainly Alicante Bouschet are some of the varieties cultivated in this area, which could be called a “frontier of flavours”, where the historical architectural history of the town is significant. For centuries, it was a borderland with the kingdoms of Levante. A fine example is the imposing castle of Almansa, an Almohad fortress that towers impressively over the rocky mountain crowning the town. Also in Almansa, the palace of the Counts of Cirat and the Museum of the Battle of Almansa -one of the most important in Spanish history - are must-sees.

For nature lovers, near Higuera, the Pétrala lagoon complex offers an excellent bird watching opportunity, as it attracts a wide range of different species.

Part of the Rock Art of the Iberian Mediterranean Basin, declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco, the town of Alpera is home to some impressive cave paintings.

The must-sees: full of explosive colour and history, the Almansa Festival (30 April to 6 May), declared to be of international tourist interest, is certainly an excellent time to visit. The festivities in honour of Our Lady of Bethlehem have a markedly Mediterranean and Levantine character, as they are based on traditional Moors and Christians festivities and recreations.



Also in April, specifically around the 25th, the historic Battle of Almansa is recreated with impressive fidelity in the town, which in 1707 decided the History of Spain and placed the Bourbon dynasty on the throne.

Experiences: enjoy a stay in the rural accommodation along the route, and relax with a spa treatment available in certain spots; sample the wonderful local cuisine, where traditional Manchegan gazpacho, rice with chicken, and snails are among the star dishes. The region's gastronomy fuses tradition and the avant-garde, and Castilla-La Mancha and Levantine roots, making it the perfect pairing for your wine tourism trip along this route





Historical recreation of the Battle of Almansa (Albacete).



Cueva de la Vieja, a cave with rock paintings in Alpera (Albacete).



Almansa Festival (Albacete).





ESSENCE OF A WINE TOURISM DESTINATION: THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

Wine growing in Castilla-La Mancha has had, and continues having, **an enormous economic and social impact on the region.**

Viticulture in Castilla-La Mancha **has shaped and coloured part of its landscapes** over the centuries, and its influence is such that even the structure and architecture of many of its towns and cities has revolved around wine-making.

Traditional wineries, others featuring avant-garde architecture, modern cooperatives, warehouses, manor houses, caves, distilleries, traditional 'bombo' architecture, countryside retreats... constructions envisioned by and for grape growing that now, in the middle of the 21st century, light up **a truly unique landscape.** Wood, stone, clay and lime in the buildings of yesteryear

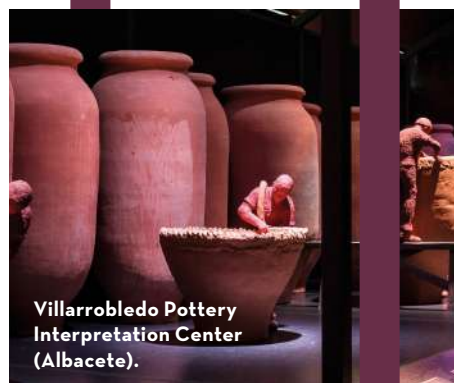
have given way to stainless steel and concrete, but all coexist peacefully today as part of Castilla-La Mancha's wine-based architecture.

Wine and **the grape harvest** in turn shape the way of living and enjoying life in Castilla-La Mancha.

The people of the wine-producing towns and villages feel it as something very much their own all year round and don't hesitate to share their wine culture with visitors. Every year, several towns hold their local festivals to coincide with the grape harvest: festivities steeped in tradition, folklore, colour, history and emotion that enchant visitors and open up the heart of Castilla-La Mancha to anyone wanting to have a great time.

The patron saint and honorary mayoress of Tomelloso is the Virgin of the Vines; the Valdepeñas Grape Harvest Festival -declared of national tourist interest- and the wine festival of Métrida are just a few examples.

Castilla-La Mancha is also home to the **FENAVIN National Wine Fair**, in Ciudad Real, an international benchmark event that every two years turns this city into the global epicentre of wine, bringing together almost 2,000 wineries and over 18,000 buyers from around the world.



Villarrobleto Pottery
Interpretation Center
(Albacete).



FENAVIN, Ciudad Real.







We recommend:

- Enjoying wine in moderation and avoiding drinking excessively.
- Avoid drinking wine if you are driving, under age or pregnant.
- Understand the guidelines for moderate wine consumption. Drink it with a good meal and alternate with water to fully appreciate its aromas and flavours.

Come, enjoy, and make a toast!



Campo de Criptana, Ciudad Real.

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