

# Spanish Culture & Cuisine

## *The cultural heritage & cuisine of Jumilla*

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022



With 5,000 years of history that can be traced back to the Greeks, Jumilla is a lovely town located in the Altiplano of the Murcia Region. Steeped in history and cultural heritage, the remains of Roman villas can be visited at the town's Jerónimo Molina museum and the legacy of Arabic cultural influences is evident from archaeology and even the names of some local places. During the Christianity Reconquest, Jumilla fell under the protection of the Manor of Villena which transformed the town into its current shape. The 15th-century castle built over the Roman settlement and the Arab fortress, which still preserves the keep and the patio de armas, the Church of El Salvador and the Ancient Council and Exchange, a mid-16th-century building and the only example of civil architecture in Murcian Renaissance. Jumilla is also known for its breath-taking countryside along with its beautiful flora and wild fauna, which attracts nature lovers to the Sierra de Carche, the Sierra Larga or the Sierra de Santa Ana, among others. Jumilla's economy is based on agriculture with main cultivation being vineyards, olive trees and fruit trees. Together with Yecla, it is one of the primary regions for the development of the Murciana and Granadina breeds of dairy goats.

We will meet our guide for a walking tour (in English) lasting 2 hours, visiting:



**Teatro Vico en Jumilla**



The theatre was built on the plot formerly occupied by the Convento de las Llagas de San Francisco, which dated from 1601. Following the Ecclesiastical Confiscations in 1835, it was expropriated and sacked; a year later it became a hospital and barracks. In around 1867 a society formed by friends of the theatre and local businessmen suggested using the convent's hall as a theatre but the project didn't come to life until 1881. The theatre was officially opened in 1883 and 7 years later, the name of Vico was added in honour of the great actor Antonio Vico.



**Early 20<sup>th</sup> century opulence in the centre of Jumilla.** The Modernist house was built in 1911 following the design of architect Joan Alsina Arús, who also collaborated with Gaudí and Conde Güell during his career. As in other parts of the Region of Murcia, this style of architecture coincided with the prosperous years of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and in Jumilla that new wealth had much to do with the growth in wine production. Among the most outstanding features of the building, which is also known as the Casa de Doña Pepita, is the wrought ironwork on the balconies and window grilles, which were created by local craftsman Avelino Gómez.



**The Church of Santiago** built in 1791 on the former Our Lady of Loreto chapel. It is Murcian baroque in style, with the interior made up of three naves. The feigned architecture high altarpiece was painted by Pablo Sístori.

**The Town Hall** built between 1580 and 1583 as the "Santi Spiritu" Hospital was to play an important role during the War of Independence and up until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when it became the Town Hall. In 1984, a magnificent wrought iron balcony was added. It is a building of two floors, with an elegant regal staircase, a solemn Council chamber and an internal wide patio with a traditional wooden continuous balcony.



**The Town Hall**

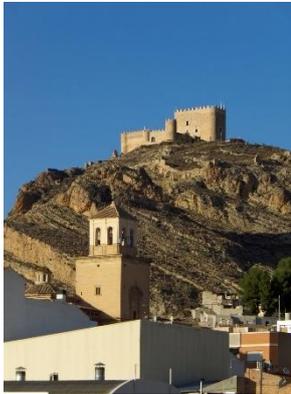
**Plaza de la Constitución**



**The Casa del Artesano**, or arts and crafts centre of Jumilla, is housed in the Casa Honda, a Renaissance building which dates from the first 30 years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, consisting of two floors and with a distribution of living spaces which follows the model of Roman villas.



**Plaza de Arriba** (Up's square), located on a former Islamic necropolis, this square was where 16th century economic and political life was centre, with the Council Palace and San José chapel to the north and the inn - today the seat of the People's University - to the west and the Jesús Nazareno Museum to the south.



Above the town you will also have an excellent view of Jumilla Castle which has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. It was fortified by Iberians and Romans. After the area was conquered by the Muslims in 713, they built here a castle called Yumilla on the ancient Roman and Iberian remains. In 1241 Jumilla Castle was conquered by troops of Ferdinand III of Castile then in 1357, the castle was taken by Ferdinand of Aragon. In 1358 the castle was again taken for the Castilian crown by Fadrique Alonso, Lord of Haro and Master of the Order of Santiago. In 1462 the castle was rebuilt into the fortress we see today by Juan Pacheco, Marquess of Villena and Master of the Order of Santiago.



Famous for its wine, Jumilla has its own *Denominación de Origen*, a regulatory classification system used primarily for Spanish wines but also for cheeses, condiments, honey, and meats, among others.



A visit to Jumilla would not be complete without tasting some of the local cuisine and wines of the region so following our guided walking tour, lunch will be included at the Restaurante San Agustín - please see the menu attached.

## PROGRAMME

- 08.00 hrs: Departure from layby in front of Golden Star Apts., Calle Bruselas (Arenal)
- 08.30 hrs: 2<sup>nd</sup> departure from Interiors (opposite side of the road), Javea port.  
(pickup at Mas y Mas, N332 may be possible); comfort stop enroute.
- 11.00 hrs: Arrival in Jumilla and guided walking tour (in English), 2 hrs.
- 13.30 hrs: Lunch.
- 16.00 hrs: Return to Javea.
- 18.30 hrs: Approx. arrival at Interiors, Javea port.



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