





GUIDE

Tourism in Tomelloso

INN, WINE AND CULTURE

Tomelloso

Tomelloso
AYUNTAMIENTO

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GUIDED ADVENTURE

History of a town **born of hard work**

Tomelloso was not founded by royal privilege but arose from the work of men and women who, since the 16th century, came to these lands to work the fields. In 1769, it achieved independence as a town, consolidating its urban centre. In the 19th century, in the heat of the wine boom, the residents began to dig the first cave-cellars under their houses for the production and storage of wine.

In the 19th century, Tomelloso consolidated itself as a wine-producing powerhouse, with caves, alembics, and distilleries that positioned it as a benchmark in the production of wine and aguardiente within Spanish trade. By the 20th century, the cooperative movement gave a strong boost to its economy with the creation, in 1961, of Virgen de las Viñas Bodega y Almazara, today one of the most prominent wine cooperatives in the world. At the same time, a brilliant generation of artists flourished—such as Antonio López Torres and his nephew Antonio López García—as well as writers, among whom the poet Eladio Cabañero and the novelist García Pavón stand out, who immortalized its essence and earned it the nickname "Athens of La Mancha.".

Today, Tomelloso is a modern, active city proud of its roots, characterised by its entrepreneurial spirit, rich agricultural and wine-making tradition, notable metal industry and remarkable cultural dynamism. Its evolution from an enclave of farmhouses to becoming the European capital of wine coexists with a first-rate ethnographic, industrial and artistic heritage.

To explore it is to discover the history of a city that built its history step by step, with effort and pride.

Tomelloso was not founded**, it was worked built.**

Tomelloso

Access and connections

Located in the centre of Castilla-La Mancha, Tomelloso is an accessible and well-connected destination for all types of stays.

> By car

A-43 motorway and CM-42.
Regional roads: N-310, CM-400, CM-3102, CM-3103, CR-1225 and CM-3109.
Ample free parking and a specific area for motorhomes equipped with all services.

> By bus

Regular bus services to Madrid and the main cities in the region, with stops at the bus station located in the town centre.

> By train

The nearest train stations are in Socuéllamos and Alcázar de San Juan, with frequent connections to Madrid, Valencia, Alicante, Seville and Ciudad Real.

Tourist attractions

Tomelloso offers a diverse tourist experience based on four themes: wine, art and culture, popular traditions and nature.

Wine tourism

Located in the center of La Mancha, Tomelloso is recognised as one of the nerve centres of wine culture in Spain, offering a complete range of wine tourism based on ancient caves, wineries and distilleries, as well as heritage linked to the world of wine, such as the drums and chimneys of old distilleries.

The wineries of Tomelloso represent a unique model of architecture and social economy. Their most distinctive feature is the cave-cellars, a network of more than 2,200 cavities dug by hand underground during the 19th and 20th centuries to produce and store wine in clay and cement jars at a constant temperature.

The caves offer ideal conditions for storing crops in a quiet environment, protecting the wines from sudden changes in climate. The "lumbreras" are the openings which attract the attention of visitors, who see them covered with grates on the pavements of the streets. They are slits in the ceilings of the vaults to allow light to enter perpendicularly into the cave. They housed all the tools necessary for the artisanal and family production of wine, large clay jars, scales, filters, pumps, etc.

The Friends of the Caves of Tomelloso Association offers guided tours to learn about this centuries-old tradition.

Today, these caves coexist with modern facilities leading the international market.
The city is home to the world's largest wine cooperative, with more than 3,000 members and 20,000 hectares of vineyards, as well as other unique family-run wineries which are sure to impress visitors.

Tomelloso is the world's largest producer of wine alcohol. Today's wineries and distilleries continue to produce the purest spirits and traditional brandies, which form the basis of numerous international spirits, maintaining a highly technologically advanced ancillary industry.

Additionally, to complete the tourist experience, the city organises various wine and food tourism events throughout the year to showcase all the products made in the municipality.







Ethnographic Tourism

Museum of Carts and Farming Implements: with over 4,000 original pieces related to traditional agriculture, such as carts, tools, rural environments and unique items, such as the bombo, a dry stone construction.

Chimneys of old distilleries: The chimneys of the old alcohol factories are now like grandiose monoliths which decorate the urban landscape of the city. At its peak, there were more than a hundred in operation in Tomelloso. With a height of up to 45 metres, they were used to vent the smoke from the large boilers which, by burning wood or coal, provided the right temperature for the distillation coil of the old alcohol factories to function.



Nature Tourism

Tomelloso is ideal for lovers of the outdoors and active tourism, with marked rural trails for hiking, cycling or horse riding among vineyards and fields in La Mancha.

The city offers several options for enjoying the outdoors:

Vineyard and Bombos Landscape: The area surrounding Tomelloso is dominated by an agricultural landscape of vineyards providing a unique backdrop for walks and routes. You can discover the "bombos", dry stone rural constructions, via hiking or cycling routes which wind through the vines.

Parks and promenades: Within the town, various parks and promenades offer large green areas with lots of vegetation, ideal for walking, picnicking and letting children play safely.

Pinilla natural environment: located about 4 kilometres from the town centre in the direction of Pedro Muñoz, it is the green lung par excellence of Tomelloso and an emblematic place for recreation in nature.

This enclave is especially known for housing the Sanctuary of the **Virgin of the Vineyards**, but beyond its religious character, it offers a unique natural space in the middle of the La Mancha plain.
It has an extensive area of pine forests, as well as large recreational areas, picnic areas and open spaces where you can contemplate the sunsets, characterised by their infinite horizons.

Lagunas de Ruidera Natural Park: This is the main natural attraction near Tomelloso. It is a spectacular spot with 15 lagoons interconnected by waterfalls and streams, located a short distance away. It is ideal for hiking, cycling, kayaking and bird watching.

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Cultural Tourism

Tomelloso offers a rich cultural life based on museums, historical architecture and urban art. Highlights include:

01 *Antonio López Torres Museums*

With over 100 works by the local painter and a temporary exhibition hall. Furthermore, nearby you can see the sculpture ensemble Carmen Dormida and Carmen Despierta (Carmen Asleep and Carmen Awake), by Antonio López García.

02 *Inn of the Portals*

An 18th-century building, declared a Site of Cultural Interest, which hosts exhibitions and cultural activities throughout the year.

03 *Museum of Contemporary Art Infanta Elena*

A private museum with award-winning works from the Virgin of the Vineyards Cultural Competition and temporary exhibitions on the second floor, where artists such as Eduardo Naranjo and Salvador Dalí have exhibited.

04 *Urban art routes*

Murals and sculptures pay tribute to local figures such as García Pavón and Félix Grande in squares and promenades.











What to visit?

Tomelloso combines tradition, popular architecture and modernity, reflecting its evolution from an agricultural enclave to a cultural city. Religious, civil and artistic spaces coexist with sculpture trails and green areas, including the following:

Los Portales Inn	Visit its website	*Plaza de España*	Visit its website
Antonio López Torres Museum	Visit its website	*Wineries*	Visit its website
Museum of Carts and Farming Implements	Visit its website	*Caves*	Visit its website
Parish Church of the Asunción de Nuestra Señora	Visit its website	*Chimneys of old distilleries*	Visit its website
Tomelloso City Council	Visit its website	*Museum and Sanctuary Virgen de las Viñas*	Visit its website









Festivities and Events

Tomelloso has a varied festive calendar combining tradition, religious observance and La Mancha culture. Throughout the year, these events offer visitors a unique experience of local immersion:

Pilgrimage of Tomelloso (last Sunday in April):

"Festival of Regional Tourist Interest". It takes place in Pinilla, 4 km from the town centre. During the weekend, there are various religious and recreational activities, such as skill contests and tractor ploughing competitions, children's games, folklore, etc. The Torchlight Procession on Saturday night is a highlight. On Sunday, it is customary to have floats alluding to local current events or referring to some characteristic aspects of the city, as well as green floats, agricultural trailers decorated with branches and filled with people ready to enjoy a fun day in the countryside. But the most characteristic and distinctive feature are the harnessed reatas, which are carts pulled by decorated mules.

Fair and Patron Saint's Day Celebrations (24–30 August):

Tomelloso's Big Week begins on the evening of the 24th in the Plaza de España with the "La Fiesta de la Vendimia" (Grape Harvest Festival), which consists of obtaining the first musts, offering them to the Virgin, and the inaugural proclamation. This week is celebrated with religious ceremonies, concerts, attractions, fireworks, parades, bullfighting shows and notable events such as the Winegrower's Day (in recognition of the agricultural sector) and the Wine Festival (where local wines are tasted). It is rounded off with children's, sporting and cultural activities, including the International Folklore Festival and the "Fiesta de las Letras" Artistic and Literary Competition, which closes the festivities.

Grape Harvest Festival (early September):

A tribute to the grape harvest as the economic engine and identity of the municipality. It features a parade of floats, traditional grape treading in an old winery and recognition of the agricultural sector.

Carnival:

This festival includes several main events, such as the National Parade of floats and dance troupes on Saturday, the School Parade on Sunday morning (declared of Regional Tourist Interest) and the Local Clubs Parade on Monday.
Mask and brass band competitions and the traditional Burial of the Sardine, among other events, complement the activities of this festival, which enjoys widespread popular participation.

Holy Week:

Holy Week in Tomelloso is a celebration with deep popular roots and religious fervour, notable for its solemnity and the involvement of numerous brotherhoods. The commemoration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ extends from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, with various processions through the streets of the city.

The most emblematic processions are the "Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem" on Palm Sunday, "Prayer and Judgement of Christ" on Maundy Thursday, "The Presentation" (Good Friday at dawn), "The Road to Calvary" on Good Friday morning, "Burial of Christ" (Good Friday night), "Procession of Silence", on Good Saturday at dawn, where penitents, in absolute silence broken only by the sound of a single drum, carry crosses and drag heavy chains in an act of devotion. The encounter procession closes Holy Week in Tomelloso.



The festivities of San Isidro (May 15) and San Antón (January 17):

The festivities of San Isidro and San Antón 17 January are also celebrated in a special way in Tomelloso. The festival of San Antón is more traditional, during which the citizens of Tomelloso gather around bonfires to spend a night of fellowship and enjoy typical local products such as chorizo, blood sausage, bacon and various other sausages, all accompanied by the best wines offered by our cooperatives and wineries.

Tomelloso Sabor (October):

Food fair with tastings, national tasting competitions and live cooking demonstrations, as well as concerts and musical performances.





Accommodation

Tomelloso offers a wide range of accommodation to suit the needs of all types of travellers. These include:

- Hotels (1 to 4 stars): Located in the centre or near tourist and commercial areas. They are ideal for business trips, cultural getaways, wine tourism or family visits.
- Tourist apartments: Increasingly common, both in the city centre and in residential areas. Recommended for long stays, families or small groups looking for comfort and independence.
- Hostels and guesthouses: Family-run establishments with tradition, friendly service, affordable prices and good locations. Perfect for short getaways and travellers who prioritize functionality and economy.
- The City Council has set up a specific area for motorhomes on María López de la Parra Street (next to Juan Carlos I Avenue), fully equipped with the necessary services (water supply, grey and black water disposal, electricity points and parking area).



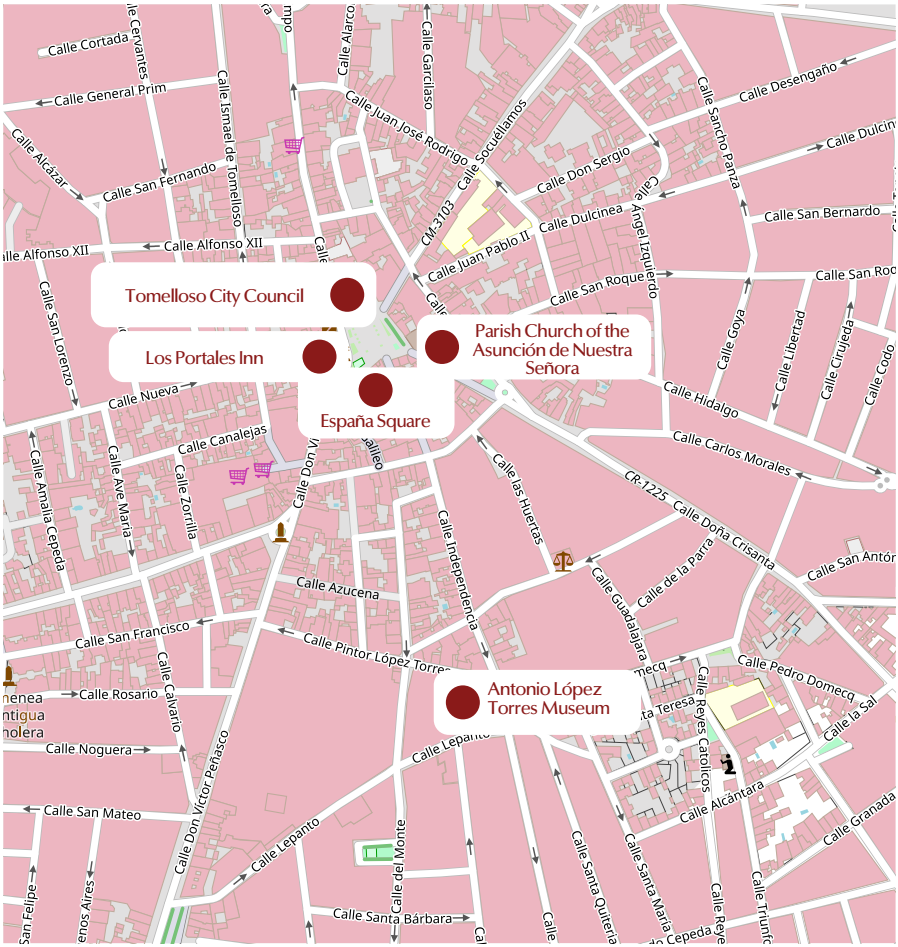


Typical cuisine

Tomelloso's cuisine reflects the traditions of La Mancha, with a mixture of home-style recipes representing its rural roots and haute cuisine offerings. Its cuisine is notable for its simplicity, heartiness and flavour. Some of the most representative dishes are gachas manchegas (a type of porridge), lamb stew, migas (breadcrumbs), pisto manchego (a type of ratatouille) and asadillo de pimientos (a pepper stew). Also noteworthy are some local products, such as pan de cruz bread, Manchego cheese, melon, extra virgin olive oil, wines with the La Mancha Designation of Origin, as well as those from Tierra de Castilla, various homemade sausages (black pudding, chorizo, bacon and sausages, as well as orza loin, prepared in the traditional way) and pan-fried sweets such as hojuelas (thin pastries), flores manchegas (flower-shaped pastries), rosquillos (ring-shaped pastries), mostillo (a sweet drink made from cooked grape juice) and arrope (a syrup made from cooked grape juice with nuts).

Tomelloso also celebrates its rich cuisine with festivals and events throughout the year, offering traditional dishes, seasonal products, and innovative creations.

In turn, since 2025, the city has had a restaurant awarded a Michelin Star: **Restaurante Epílogo,** run by chef Rubén Sánchez-Camacho, who has placed Tomelloso on the map of signature cuisine in Spain. Another of the most renowned restaurants is **Pizzería Marquinetti**, which has received international awards and has managed to turn pizza into an haute cuisine dish.



Municipal Tourist Office

Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Sundays: 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Public holidays: 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m./Mondays: closed

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Tomelloso