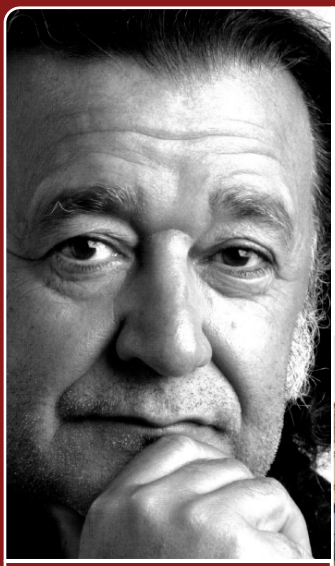
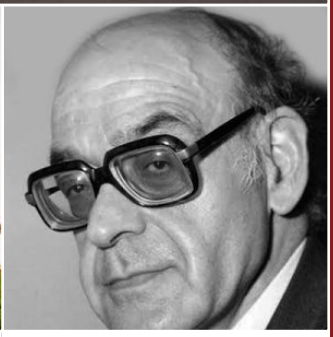








GUIDE

Tourism and Literature

INN, WINE AND CULTURE

Tomelloso
POSADA VIDA Y CULTURA

Tomelloso
AYUNTAMIENTO

ALL THE INFORMATION ON OUR WEB

LISTEN TO THE AUDIO GUIDES

GUIDED ADVENTURE

The "Athens of La Mancha"

Tomelloso is renowned for its important cultural activity, especially in the literary field.

This deep connection with literature has its roots in the 19th century, when farmers in the area, isolated and with few entertainment options, began to compose and recite verses and songs, and later to write them down in notebooks. This rural poetry, which documented life, farm work, adversity, and religious aspects, laid the foundations for an agri-literary phenomenon which continues to this day.

The inhabitants of Tomelloso have a strong appreciation for literature, with reading and writing being their favorite activities. This cultural inclination is attributed to a rich tradition of writers and a deep-rooted cultural heritage. In fact, it is no coincidence that no other town in the province has more authors than Tomelloso.



Emblematic Literary Figures of Tomelloso

Literature in Tomelloso has been driven by a "magical generation" since 1950, which consolidated its prestige at the national level:



Francisco García Pavón (1919-1989):

Considered the standard-bearer of the literary cause in Tomelloso and the figure most closely identified with literary activity in the city. He was the precursor of the Spanish detective novel with his detective Plinio. He played a fundamental role in the institutionalization of local literature, being one of the great promoters of the Festival of Letters and the founder and director of the Municipal Public Library (which now bears his name).



Eladio Cabañero López (1930-2000):

Self-taught poet. He was awarded the National Literature Prize in 1963 for Marisa Sabia y otros poemas (Marisa Sabia and Other Poems) and the Critics' Prize in 1971 for Poesía (1956-1970) (Poetry).

He was included in the Anthology of New Spanish Poetry in 1968, alongside other authors of the Generation of '50.



Félix Grande Lara (1937-2014):

Born in Mérida, he spent his childhood and youth in Tomelloso from the age of two to twenty, where he worked as a day laborer and flamenco guitarist.

He won the Adonáis Poetry Prize in 1963 for Las Piedras, the National Poetry Prize in 1978 for Las rubáiyatas de Horacio Martín, and the National Prize for Spanish Literature in 2004 in recognition of his career. He was a poet, storyteller, flamencologist, and critic, part of the Generation of '50.
His remains rest in the cemetery of Tomelloso, which

declared two days of mourning after his death.



Dionisio Cañas (1949):

Poet and conceptual artist, founding member of the Estrujenbank collective.

He lived in New York, where he studied and became a professor at the City University of New York.

He is a pioneer of video poetry in Spain and has created numerous performances and installations. Part of his archive is held at the Reina Sofía National Art Museum.

He has written an unpublished anthology on the rural poetry of Tomelloso.



Other notable writers:

Francisco Martínez Ramírez "El Obrero" (founder of the newspaper El Obrero de Tomelloso and the cultural society Círculo Instructivo Obrero), Luis Quirós Arias (b. 1893), Juan Torres Grueso (b. 1912), Ignacio Castellanos (b. 1922), Jesús Madrigal (b. 1923), Faustino Rosado (b. 1924), José López Martínez (b. 1931), Ángel López Martínez (b. 1936), Natividad Cepeda Serrano (b. 1949), and many others from more recent generations.



Key Literary Events and Institutions

01

Fiesta de las Letras:

An annual celebration dating back to 1944, it is one of the oldest and most prestigious events of its kind in Spain. It attracts important figures from the world of literature and the arts, such as Camilo José Cela, Carmen Martín Gaite, Francisco Umbral and Antonio Gala. This event is key to the social construction of the literary phenomenon of Tomelloso.

02

Francisco García Pavón Municipal Public Library:

Founded by García Pavón himself, it plays a key role in promoting reading in the town. In 2019, it housed over 61,000 bibliographic items for 11,012 users.

03

Castilla-La Mancha House of Arts and Letters – CALMA:

Calle Alfonso XII, 34
A cultural center designed to bring together and disseminate the literary and artistic legacy of Tomelloso.

Rutas y Lugares de Interés Literario

- Francisco García Pavón Route:
  A tour combining the author's life and work with the places he lived and recreated in his novels. Some of the key points are:
  - **Churrería de la Rocío (now Hotel Paloma):** A frequent haunt of Plinio, García Pavón's detective.
  - **City Council:** Where Plinio worked.
  - **Local Police Station:** Where Francisco García Pavón founded the Municipal Library.
  - **Los Portales Inn:** An iconic building mentioned in the author's autobiography.
  - Birthplace of Francisco García Pavón.
  - Francisco García Pavón Municipal Library.
  - **"El Infierno" Carpentry Workshop:** Owned by the writer's grandfather and father.
  - **House of Paulino and Gumersindo:** Setting for Republican Stories.
  - **Maria Cristina Roundabout:** The writer's childhood garden.
  - **Statue of Francisco Martínez Ramírez "El Obrero":** Dedicated to an illustrious figure and friend of his grandfather.
  - **Tomelloso Casino (formerly the Liberal Circle):** With wooden and glass coffered ceilings made by the author's grandfather.
  - **San Fernando Casino:** Meeting place of Plinio and Don Lotario.
  - **Historias de Plinio Park:** Square with statues of characters from García Pavón's novels.

- **Félix Grande Sculpture:** Located in the Barrio del Moral neighborhood, where he grew up. It includes elements defining his career, such as a Spanish guitar, a flamenco chair and a copy of El abuelo Palancas.

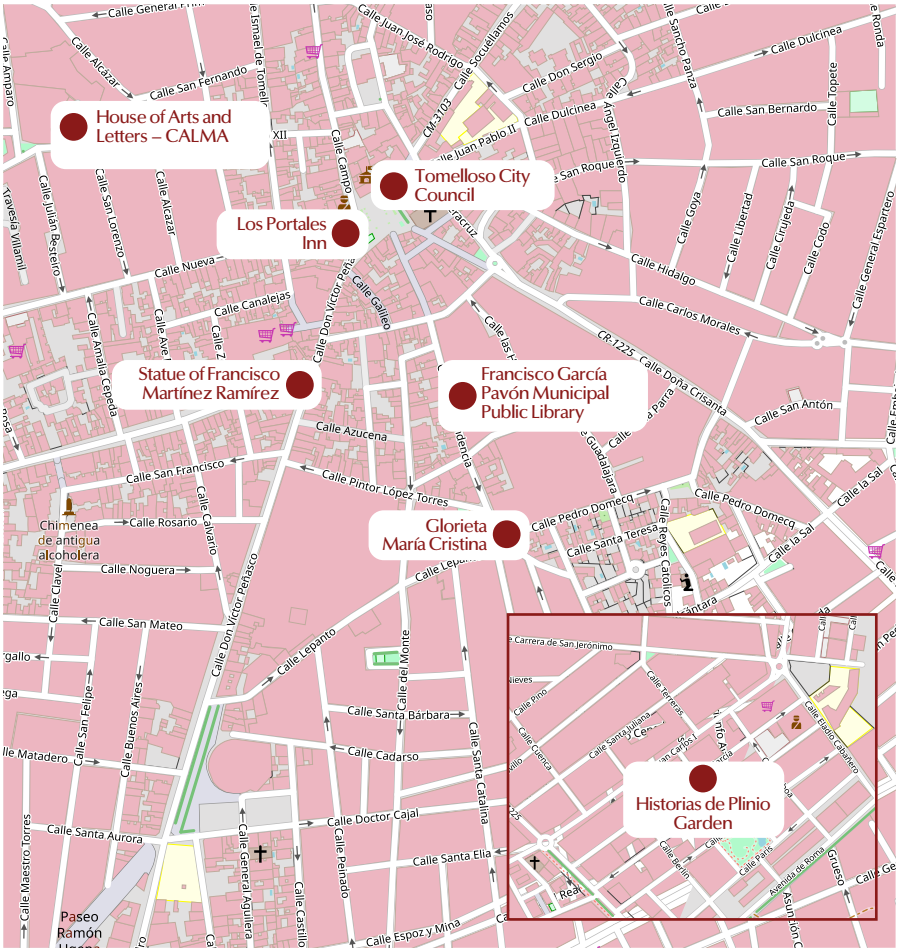


A Sociological Phenomenon: The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy



Tomelloso's uniqueness as a literary hub can be explained, in part, by Robert K. Merton's concept of the "self-fulfilling prophecy". The deep-rooted belief that literature is a fundamental part of its identity has led to the construction of a mythology around the town's literary culture. Figures such as Francisco García Pavón, by inviting prestigious writers to participate in the Festival of Letters and speaking of Tomelloso as a place which "exuded literature in abundance", contributed to establishing this idea in the collective imagination. This prediction of Tomelloso as the "Athens of La Mancha" has become a reality thanks to the shared actions and perceptions of its inhabitants.





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

Financiado por la Unión Europea NextGenerationEU
Gobierno de España · Ministerio de Industria y Turismo
Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia
Castilla-La Mancha
Tomelloso