





GUIDE

Wine tourism

INN, WINE AND CULTURE

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GUIDED ADVENTURE

Tomelloso is renowned as an important wine-producing centre and is famous for its excellent wines. The town's history has been intrinsically linked to wine for over 200 years, having developed around it and becoming a key supplier both for Spain and abroad..



Discover the exciting world of wine in Tomelloso

Wine tourism in Tomelloso offers a unique and authentic experience to discover the flavours and culture of La Mancha. The town is the birthplace of many artists and its wine heritage, including drums, caves and chimneys from old distilleries, are living testimonies to its history and wine tradition.

1. Visits to Wineries and Wine Tasting.

You will have the opportunity to visit prestigious wineries and immerse yourself in the exciting world of viticulture.

- **Virgen de las Viñas Winery and Olive Mill:** Founded in 1961, this cooperative is the largest in the world, having processed more than 300 million kilos of grapes in a single year. It also has an oil mill, where top-quality extra virgin olive oil is produced, and a contemporary art museum**.**

- **Verum Winery:** Offers a guided tour of its facilities, including its impressive ageing cave, ending with an expert-led wine tasting.

Wine tastings are a fundamental part of the experience, allowing you to discover the characteristics produced by the wine when you drink it: the mouthfeel, the aromas, the sensations on the tongue, its persistence and the difference in colours.

2. The Emblematic Cave-Wineries

Tomelloso is famous for its more than 2,000 underground cave-wineries which pierce its subsoil.

- **History and Function:** These caves, built under the houses themselves, were used to make and store wine. Thanks to the limestone nature of the soil, they remained stable, and their underground location ensured ideal temperatures (between 10 and 19^{0}C) and relative humidity of around 40% for wine storage.
- **Tinajas (vases):** Traditional containers for wine in these caves, originally made of clay (the oldest ones) or cement, with capacities ranging from 100 to 16,000 litres, where fermentation took place.
- **Picaores and terreras:** The subsoil of Tomelloso lends itself to its men, who, with pickaxes and their bare hands, dig these caves with no other technique than their skill at a job well done, helped by women – called "terreras" – who are responsible for transporting the earth and sand extracted from the interior to the surface, which in many cases was used for paving streets or building their own houses. The "picaores", with their sharp picks, dug into the subsoil until they achieved a series of rooms with semicircular arched vaults.
- **Skylights:** These are the openings which are so striking to visitors, who see them grated over the pavements of all the streets in the town centre of Tomelloso. They are slits in the roofs of the caves to let light in, which also served to remove the carbon dioxide generated during the fermentation of the must.



3. Cultural and Industrial Heritage.

Beyond the wineries and caves, Tomelloso offers other points of interest which complement the wine tourism experience:



- **Ethnographic Museum:** This open-air museum pays tribute to Tomelloso's agricultural roots. It traces the history of farm work and traditional transport through an impressive collection of farm carts, antique machinery and traditional tools.
  The centrepiece is the "Bombo", a typical rural dwelling of La Mancha farmers, built entirely of dry stone.
  A visit to this museum is essential to understand the life and work of the winegrowers and farmers of La Mancha.
- **Distillation chimneys:** Discover a unique industrial landscape. The chimneys of the old distilleries, which rise imposingly above the Tomelloso skyline, are silent witnesses to a history of progress and determination. In the mid-20th century, these structures were the driving force behind our city's economic growth. The century does not fit well in another line.
- **Los portales Inn:** An emblematic 18th-century building, declared a historic-artistic monument (BIC). Today it is a cultural centre, with temporary exhibitions and conferences, and houses the Tourist Office.



4. Manchegan cuisine.

The wine tourism experience is perfectly complemented by the rich cuisine of Tomelloso and La Mancha.

- **Typical dishes:** you must try migas de gañán (breadcrumbs), the famous gachas manchegas (porridge), pisto manchego (ratatouille), caldereta de cordero (lamb stew), asadillo (roast vegetables), and galianos (gazpacho manchego), a tasty stew made with torta cenceña (flatbread), game meat (rabbit or partridge) and wild spices. Always accompany these dishes with a good wine produced in the wineries of Tomelloso.
- **Traditional sweets:** During Holy Week, you can enjoy hojuelas (flaky pastries), rosquillos (ring-shaped pastries) or flores (flower-shaped pastries). During the grape harvest, it's time to taste the typical tortas de mosto (grape must cakes), mostillo (grape must jelly) or arrope (grape must syrup), desserts made with grape must.
- **Local Products:** You will find magnificent cheeses, brandies, mistelas, liqueurs and traditional breads such as Pan de Cruz. Summer is the season to savour sapo melons and watermelons.



5. Wine Tourism Events and Festivities

Tomelloso hosts various wine-related activities and events throughout the year:

- **Fair and Festivities (24 to 30 August):** One of the most important festivities in Castilla-La Mancha, with Food Days and the Wine Festival, for which tickets sell out quickly.
- **Wine Festival (August)**: The event combines wine tasting in Tomelloso with the sale of tapas and portions of typical products and live music.
- **Tomelloso Sabor Food Fair:** Annual food and gastronomy fair organised by the Tomelloso Town Council to promote the quality of local products and those from the surrounding area. It includes stalls run by local exhibitors, tastings, national tasting competitions (for wine, cheese, melon and brandy), show cooking with renowned chefs and live concerts.
- **World Wine Tourism Day "Roots and Wine":** Celebrated throughout the month of November. Includes visits to caves and wineries, "Scaperoom", Wine Gallery and other tasting activities that vary annually.

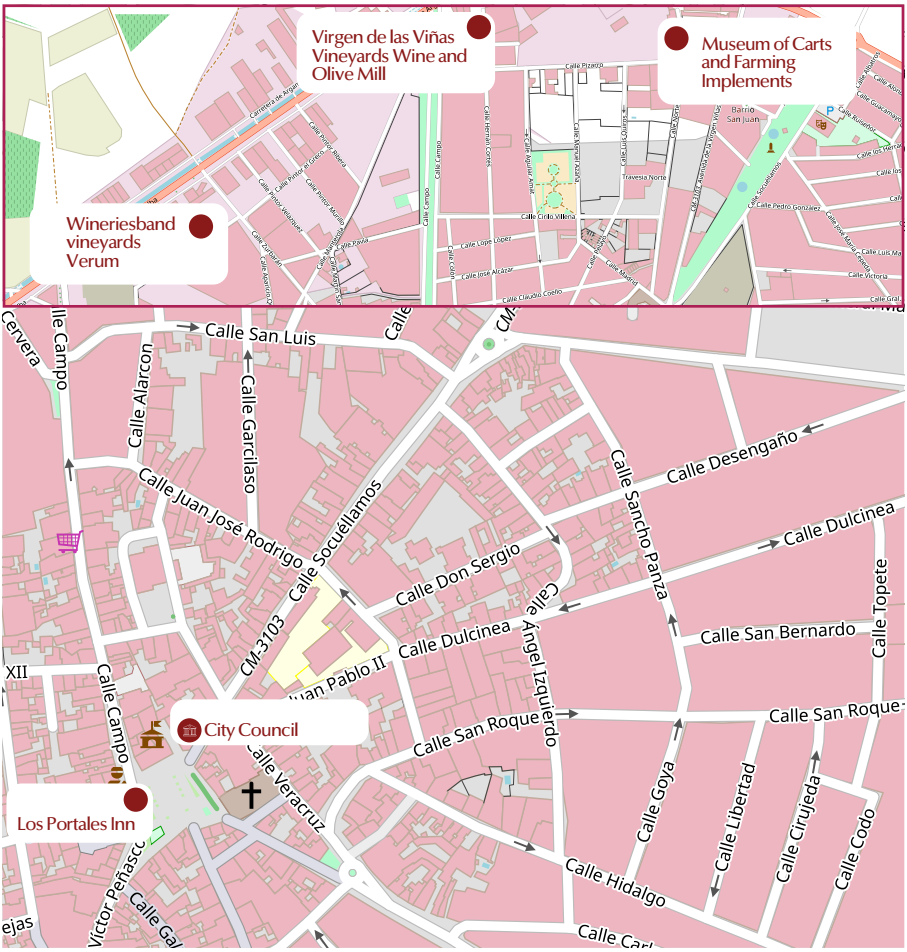
6. Organised Experiences and How to Book.

You can choose from full-day wine tourism experiences featuring typical cuisine,
a visit to a winery, wine tasting, a tour of an old cave-cellar, and a cultural tour with an official bilingual guide.

- **The Friends of the Caves of Tomelloso Association:** Guided tours of the caves can be booked through their website, with or without tasting, whichever you prefer. (https://cuevasdetomelloso.com/cuevas-visitables)
- **Virgen de las Viñas Winery and Olive Mill:** During this visit, you will tour the facilities and museums. It includes a tasting of two wines, olive oil and a Manchego appetiser. During the harvest season, you can take two special tours, learning first-hand about the harvest and/or obtaining the first musts of the year. (https://vinostomillar.es/enoturismo-2/)
- **Verum Vineyards:** A visit to Verum is sure to impress, as it is one of the few wineries in the world where you can visit both a distillery and a winery. What's more, the ageing cellar is truly breathtaking. Includes wine tasting and appetisers. (https://bodegasverum.com/enoturismo/)
- **Civitatis:** This agency offers various wine tourism activities in Tomelloso, as well as guided tours of the city, combining culture and wine tourism**.** (https://www.civitatis.com/es/tomelloso/?srsltid=AfmBOopsiGpUEkM_8sZud-HSik0LY3yFJtsXKGisa5aJPfBv1giwms6p)







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