





GUIDE

Popular Festivals

INN, WINE AND CULTURE

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Popular Festivals

Tomelloso hosts a variety of festivals and special events throughout the year which reflect its rich tradition, culture and devotion. Below is some information about some of these celebrations

Romería of the Santísima Virgen de las Viñas

This is Tomelloso's most characteristic and popular festival, declared of Regional Tourist Interest. Thousands of people gather at the Pinilla Sanctuary, located 4 kilometres from the city. A distinctive feature are the "green" floats and the reatas, which combine the tradition of mule-drawn carts with modern tractors and their decorated trailers. The mules' hindquarters are shorn to form phrases and drawings, and their tails are braided with coloured ribbons. The teams of mules, a distinctive element that makes this celebration unique, are harnessed together and pull a cart. All their trappings and accessories are handcrafted, and their rumps are sheared to form phrases and designs. They are a tribute to this animal, a working force that helped make Tomelloso one of the world's largest vineyards. During the Romería celebration, various recreational and religious events take place. The most emotional takes place on Saturday night, when the Torchlight Procession is held around the temple. The festival includes traditional games, folklore and tractor skill competitions. There is no shortage of good local wine, Manchego cheese and popular snacks in the traditional "tascas" (taverns) and marquees.
On Sunday, the image of the Virgin of the Vineyards is carried back to Tomelloso on the shoulders of the faithful, presiding over a large parade of floats and horse-drawn carts, to the parish church of La Asunción.

Tomelloso Fair and Festivals

Considered one of the most important in Castilla-La Mancha.
It is a week of patron saint festivities enjoyed at a frenetic pace, with residents taking to the streets to celebrate. Activities are organised for all tastes and audiences, ranging from sports competitions and demonstrations, a traditional market, artistic performances in the Plaza de España and Park Gardens, to religious events. The opening ceremonies begin with "La Fiesta de la Vendimia" (The Grape Harvest Festival) in the Plaza de España, where the first musts are obtained and an offering is made to the Virgin of the Vineyards, followed by an inaugural speech by a prominent figure from the cultural sphere.
Culturally, the festivities begin with an International Folklore Festival and conclude with the prestigious "Fiesta de las Letras" Literary Competition, which has been running for more than half a century and is one of the first of its kind in Spain. The musical programme for the Fair and Festivities usually includes top-level artists and shows for different audiences.

Carnival



It stands out for its brilliant carnival parades, full of imagination and colour. The school parade is a typical event in which around two thousand children, parents and teachers participate and has been declared of regional tourist interest. Also noteworthy are the National Parade of Floats and Dance Groups, where clubs from different provinces compete with spectacular displays, choreography and high-quality costumes, and the Local Clubs Parade, where the clubs of Tomelloso fill the streets with music and satire. Also significant is the Spontaneous Mask Contest, a tradition which keeps the spirit of the classic carnival alive, where individual ingenuity and improvised costumes take centre stage. The celebrations culminate with the Burial of the Sardine, which includes a parade with different associations and parents' associations, burning the participating sardines at the fairgrounds, giving rise to a popular barbecue.

Holy Week

The Holy Week processions in Tomelloso are characterised by their sobriety and tradition, with the participation of twelve brotherhoods and fraternities. Good Friday is the most important day, joining the early hours of Holy Saturday with the emblematic Procession of Silence, in which penitents walk through the streets following the slow cadence of a single drum, carrying crosses and dragging heavy chains. During this time, Tomelloso offers delicious traditional cuisine, including handmade sweets such as hojuelas (thin wafers), rosquillos (ring-shaped pastries), torrijas (French toast) and flores (flower-shaped pastries).

Feast of Saint Anthon

Celebrated on 17 January. The people of Tomelloso gather around bonfires to share a night of fellowship and enjoy a dinner of typical local products, such as chorizo, black pudding, bacon and roast potatoes, washed down with wines from local cooperatives and wineries.
The Brotherhood of San Antón is proud to maintain traditions such as the parade of mules, horses and pets for blessing by the Chaplain. Events include a municipal bonfire and raffles for baskets.
The festivities culminate with a solemn mass in honour of the saint.

Feast of Saint Isidro

It is celebrated on 15 May. The Brotherhood of San Isidro organises various activities, including the presentation of awards for wine competitions. There are a proclamation and the naming of the "Farmer of the Year" and "Musical Proclaimer". San Isidore is carried from his chapel to the Parish Church of La Asunción by the youth group of the Brotherhood. The programme includes tractor skill competitions, petanque competitions, craft workshops for children and a "Tardeo Romero" (romantic evening). The main day includes a popular chocolate party, a procession and offering to San Isidore with musical accompaniment, and a tractor parade.

Neighbourhood Festivals

These local celebrations begin on 1 May with the San José Obrero neighbourhood and end in October with those of the Barrio del Pilar neighbourhood. Throughout the summer, in June, the festivals of the San Antonio, Maternidad, San Juan and Embajadores neighbourhoods are celebrated. In July, the neighbourhoods of Barrio del Carmen, José María del Moral and Nuevo Tomelloso hold their celebrations. The neighbourhood festival of Barrio del Carmen, in particular, is popularly known as the prelude to the Tomelloso Fair and Festivals, with an extensive programme of activities. This celebration dates back to 1947. It includes the opening speech, the naming of Dulcineas and Quijote, the procession of the Virgin of Carmen and countless activities.

City of Tomelloso International Folklore Festival

This event is held around 15 August and is organised by the Manantial del Vino Folklore Group. It has established itself as a prestigious prelude to the fair.



World Wine Tourism Day

This is celebrated on the second Sunday in November. During that month, various activities take place, such as visits to wineries and guided tastings of wines produced in the municipality.

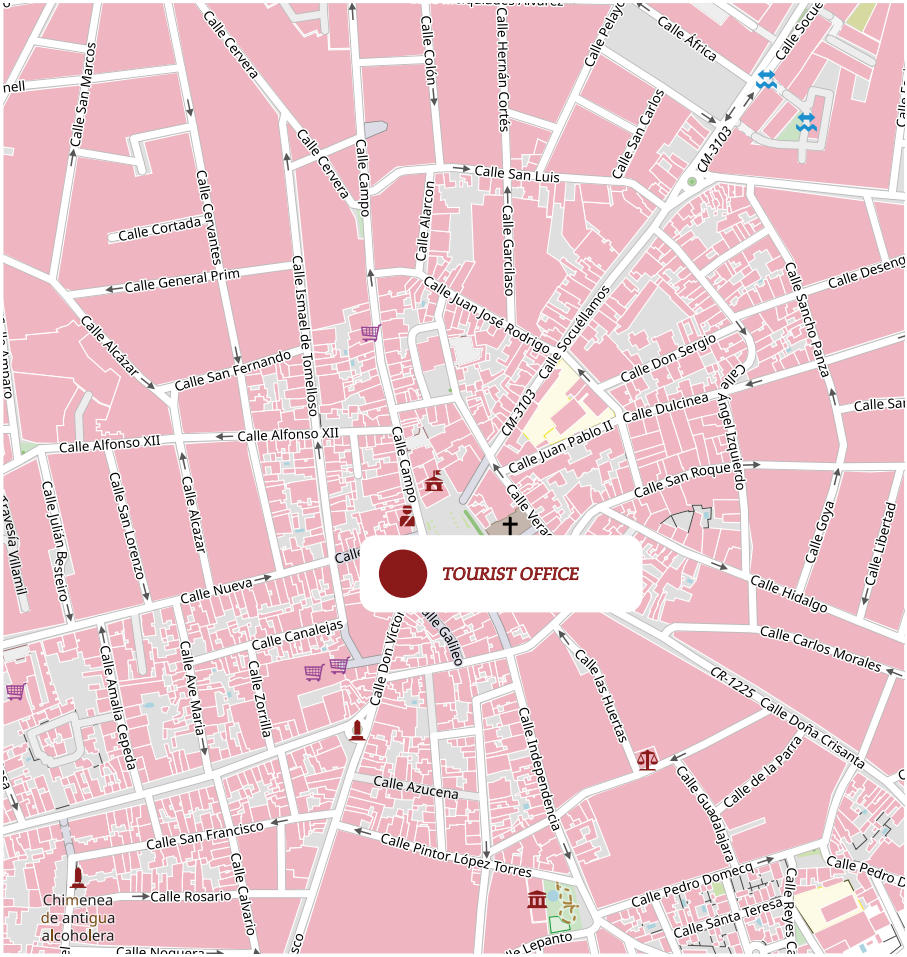


Christmas

Celebrated in December and January. Cultural activities are held: nativity scenes, exhibitions, theatre, Christmas market. Children's workshops, magic shows and Santa Claus race. The grand Three Kings Parade, with fantasy floats and a hundred people accompanying the Kings. Traditional nativity scenes in parishes and senior centres; charity toy collection.



For more information:
You can contact Tomelloso Tourist Office:
-Telephone: 926 52 88 01 – Ext. 1335
-Website: www.visitatomelloso.com
-Email: turismo@aytotomelloso.es



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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