

GUIDE

Chimneys of Tomelloso

INN, WINE AND CULTURE

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GUIDED ADVENTURE

Towers of Fire and Memory

Tomelloso's skyline features unique silhouettes: brick chimneys which, though no longer smoking, stand as monuments to an era of intense industrial activity. These structures are not mere remnants of the past, but witnesses to an economy linked to wine, spirits and collective effort.

Between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries, Tomelloso became one of the largest distilling centres in Europe. It was home to more than 60 distilleries and nearly 100 chimneys, built to expel the gases and vapours from the transformation of wine into alcohol. Today, some 40 chimneys survive, which have an incalculable heritage value.

These towers have gone from being functional to becoming emblems of local identity, merging landscape, memory and history.



CHIMENEA VINUMAR

Industrial architecture: how chimneys were built

The chimneys were built without cranes or external scaffolding. The work was carried out from the inside, using mobile circular scaffolding. As the structure grew, it narrowed. This progressive reduction improved the suction of hot air and provided structural stability.

Common characteristics:

Height: between 20 and 45 metres, depending on the capacity of the distillery.
Materials: high-density fired brick, joined with lime mortar, sand and cement. Floor plan: generally octagonal or circular. Some square exceptions.
Cornices and finials: decorative, with polychrome brick or geometric figures. Base: very thick, reaching almost 1 metre to support the weight.

Master builders:

The technical and aesthetic excellence of Tomelloso's industrial chimneys cannot be explained without mentioning the legacy of two
key figures: José Goig Lorente, a Valencian master builder of national renown, and the Jareño family, builders from Tomelloso who learned by observing and collaborating, and who managed to establish their own unique style.

José Goig Lorente (Valencia): responsible for works such as Domecq, Casajuana, Torres, Espinosa, Vinumar, Vansa and Peinado.
The Jareño family (Tomelloso): renowned for their fine work and local adaptations. Fábregas, Empe and Eugenio Navarro.

Distillation and Wine: the Fire Which Transformed Grapes

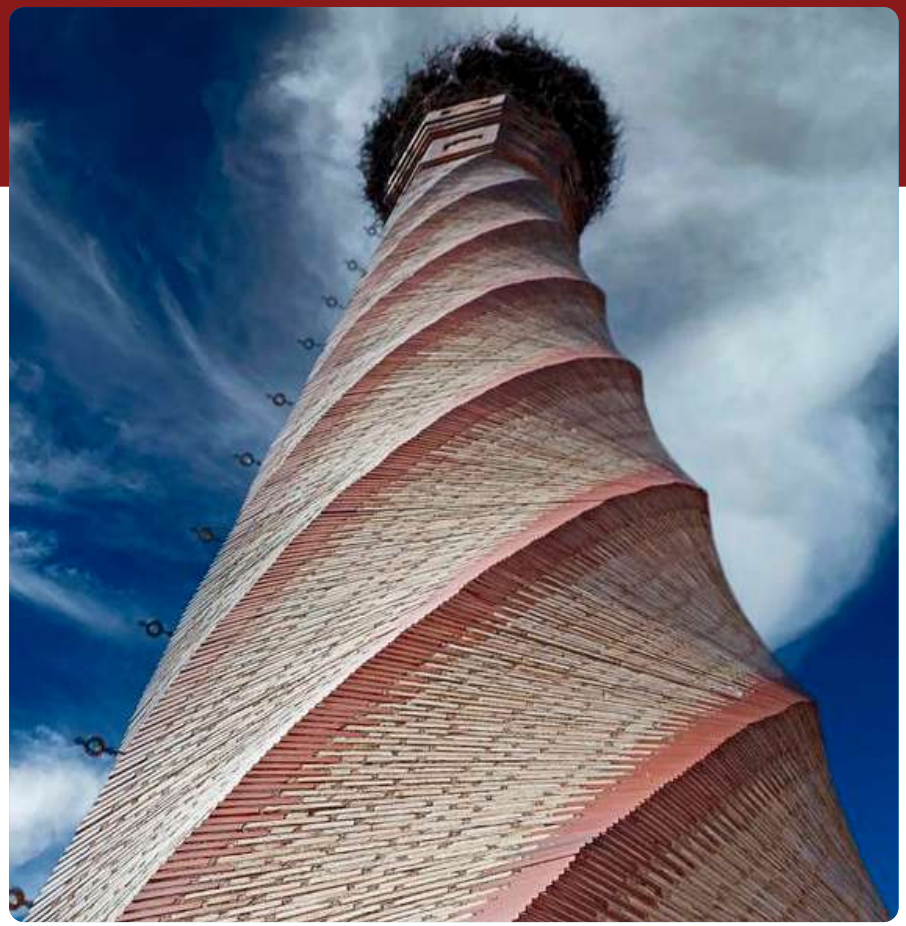
The chimneys were connected to distillation boilers, which were fueled by wood or coal. This process generated steam and heat, which emerged from the towers continuously, creating an industrial spectacle.

The distilleries in Tomelloso were responsible for the production of:

Holandas: high-proof alcohols, an essential base for the production of brandy.
Spirits: with an alcohol content of between 60% and 90%.
Fortified wines: fortified by partial distillation.

The industrial complexes included underground cellars, large warehouses, cooling towers, and areas for loading and unloading products. Some of these facilities were so large that they became veritable industrial cathedrals, many of which have now been demolished or converted.

FABREGAS CHIMNEY



Routes

01
City center and east axis – the chimney walk

This route begins at Plaza de España and takes in some of the most unique chimneys.

Main points:

- **Domecq (1870) (Calle Domecq):** 35 m., octagonal base, two-tone finials. An icon of the city, illuminated at night.
- **Peinado (1955) (Calle Lepanto): 31 m., monochrome and with cornice ornamentation, at the top of the base and at the top. This distillery also incorporates two twin chimneys of barely 8 m, among the oldest (1820).**
- **Eugenio Navarro (Calle Clavel):** 18.5 m., octagonal floor plan, red corner bricks, cross decorations at the top. It has nighttime lighting.
- **Espinosa (1950) (Calle Julián Besteiro):** 22 m., Octagonal floor plan, with details typical of Goig's buildings. It has nighttime lighting.

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes on foot, 50 minutes by bike.
Ideal for: photography, industrial architecture, cultural visits.

02
Retail Park

Highlights:

- **Empe (next to the bus station):** 27.7 m., rare square floor plan. It still has marks from the oven.
- **Casajuana (1942) (Calle Habana):** two chimneys, one of which reaches 35 m. Impressive for their height and visual balance.
- **Fábregas (1964) (Calle Ruiseñor): 40,70 m.,** known as the "twisted chimney" because of the twist in its axis. With an attached distillation tower.
- **Chimenea Torres (1944) (Avenida Virgen de las Viñas y la calle Norte):** 32 m. , it is one of the most distinctive and beautiful. It has an octagonal floor plan.

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes on foot, 45 minutes by bike.
Recommendation: combine with a visit to the Cart Museum or a nearby winery.

03
North railway and peripheral distilleries

Highlights:

- **Altosa (Calle Juan Antonio López):** still in operation. Metal distillation tower and 20 m. chimney.
- **Vinumar (1962) (Calle Estación):** square building, 32 m., high. It still has its coat of arms in relief.
- **Vansa (1949) (Calle González-Byass):** imposing, 35 m. tall, sober structure, solid base, and striking visual presence.

Duration: 1 hour on foot, 45 minutes by bike.
Recommendation: combine with a visit to the Cart Museum or a nearby winery.

DOMECQ CHIMNEY



TWIN PEINADO CHIMNEYS



PEINADO TWIN CHIMNEYS



EUGENIO NAVARRO CHIMNEY



Industrial Aesthetics:
Shapes, Finishes and Symbols

Each chimney is unique. Not only because of its height or layout, but also because of its architectural details. Many of them feature:

Rhombuses: formed with dark bricks, as in the Torres Chimney. Stepped cornices: typical of the Goig style.
Pointed or crenellated finishes: some are reminiscent of defensive towers. Fire marks: black marks narrating their past use.

These chimneys are a source of inspiration for artists, urban planners, and photographers, and have appeared in murals, postcards, and publications.

PEINADO TWIN CHIMNEYS



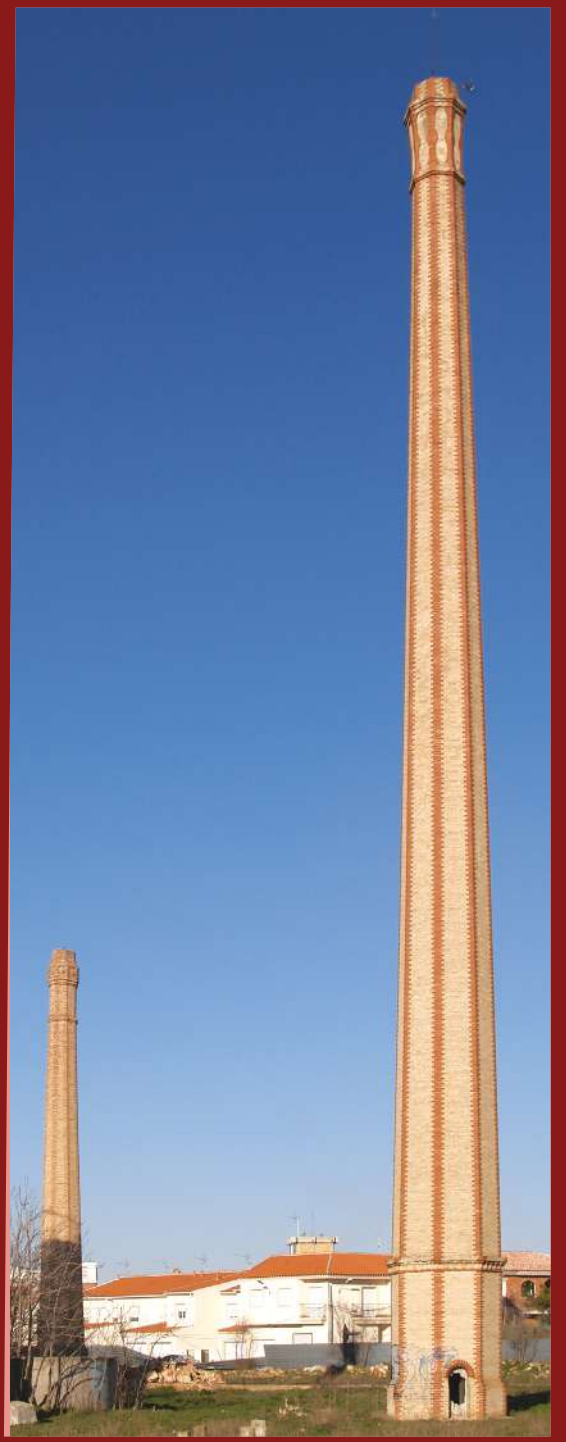
Tips for visiting

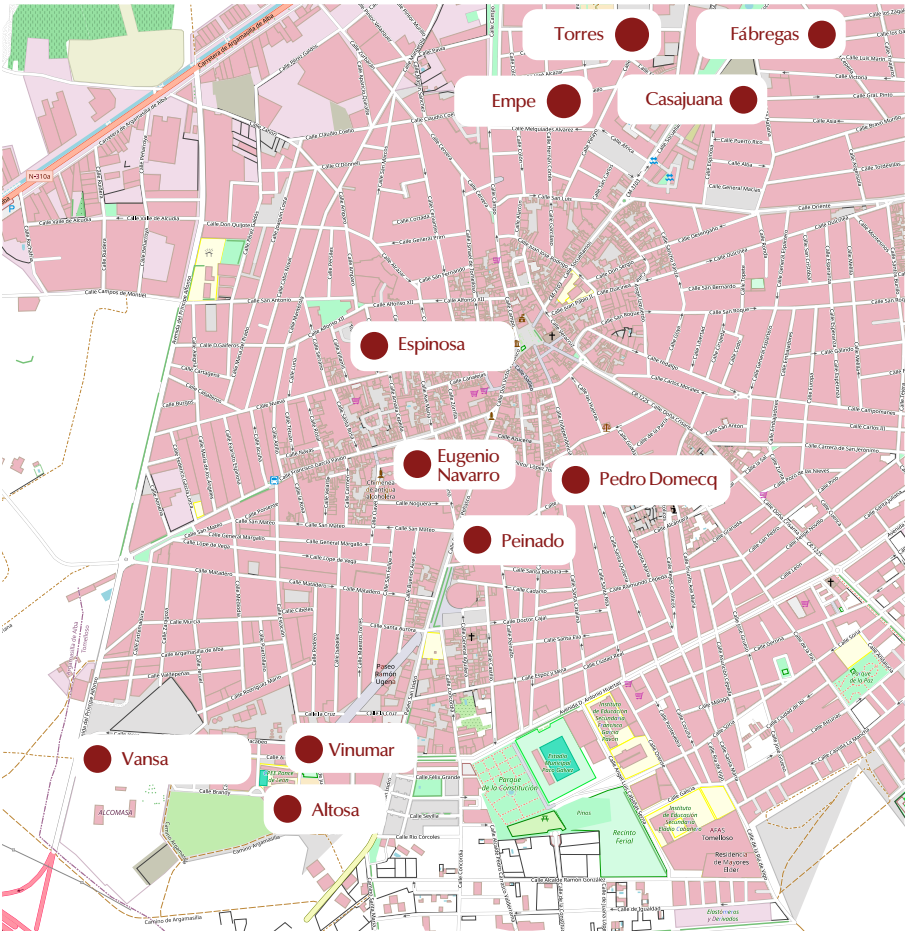
- Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sunscreen if you walk.
- Avoid the middle of the day in summer.
- Some chimneys are located in private spaces: observe without entering.
- Ideal for school visits, cultural routes or photography tours.
- The best times for photographs: sunrise or sunset, when the long shadows enhance their silhouette.

Resources, access and map

- Tourist Office: Plaza de España. Tel. 926 52 88 01 Ext. 1335
- Interactive map and audio guide: available at visitatomelloso.com
- Guided tours: Request information at the Tourist Office
- Accessibility: most urban routes are adapted for strollers or wheelchairs.
- Parking: Free on all routes (except Plaza de España)

CASAJUANA CHIMNEYS





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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