

CASTILLA

Y

NADA QUE SE PAREZCA A TI

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

LEÓN



WINE HARVEST FESTIVALS

Fiesta de la Vendimia Ribera del Duero (cedida agencia Ical)



Vintage closes the vegetative cycle of the vine after the onset of ripening of the grapes. The tradition was responsible for setting dates in the agricultural calendar, coinciding with the end of summer and early fall, to pick the grapes, and vineyards were filled with groups of harvesters who collected the bunches in baskets to be transported to the winery.

The people of Castilla y Leon, complete families and almost intact populations, lived days of authentic hustle and bustle of carts, baskets and bustle, transforming the harvest in a feast. The modernization of viticulture and the professionalization of vintage have not overshadowed this popular festival, they have rather enhanced it and now the Designations of Origin and many localities celebrate their harvest festival, which begins with the crushing of the first grapes and the tasting of the first must.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

Romería de la Virgen de Chilla en Candeleda, Ávila (cedida agencia Ical)



PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF CHILLA, CANDELEDA, ÁVILA

According to tradition, a goatherd from Calera named Finardo, whose goat had died, tearfully invoked the Virgin Mary. She appeared to him and miraculously revived the animal. In gratitude, the people of Candeleda built the Hermitage of Our Lady of Chilla. The Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Chilla takes place on the second Sunday of September (Fiesta Sunday) and has been declared of Tourist Interest in Castilla y León. On the third Sunday of September, the Vela Festival is celebrated. In the morning, a procession carries the image of the Virgin from the town to the hermitage, situated under the shade of ancient ash trees, where the stone of the apparitions is located. A solemn mass, presided over by the image of the Virgin, is held there. After the Eucharistic act, an auction takes place at the door of the hermitage to determine who will carry the image of Our Lady of Chilla back to her throne. Each year, the event draws a massive crowd where various musical, cultural, and recreational activities are held in the plazas and streets of Candeleda throughout the afternoon and evening.



El Cronicón de Oña, Burgos



THE CHRONICLE OF OÑA, BURGOS

From 14 to 18 August, the 36th edition of The Chronicle of Oña will take place. This cultural project has been declared a Festival of Tourist Interest in Castilla y León. The event showcases the history, heritage, and community spirit of the monastery, the town of Oña, and its surroundings, highlighting the tourism sector as a cornerstone of the local economy. In 2024, The Chronicle will be staged in the San Iñigo Courtyard of the Monastery of San Salvador, with a renewed presentation of the story that attracts large audiences every year. In 1017, Count Sancho García passed away, and his remains were taken to the Monastery of Oña, which he founded in 1011. He appointed his daughter Tigridia as the head and decreed that this would be the burial place for himself and his family. Thanks to his will, the monks who lived there, and the monarchs who protected it, we can appreciate Oña's most significant monument. The Pantheon of the Monastery preserves the remains of the founding counts: Sancho García and Urraca Gómez, their children Tigridia, García, and Muniadonna, and her husband Sancho III, King of Pamplona. Also buried there are Saint Iñigo and Sancho II of Castilla. The summer performance in Oña introduces these historical figures and spans a century from the time of Count Fernán González to that of El Cid Campeador.



CARVED TREES IN EL BIERZO, LEÓN

Each tree holds a hidden story, radiating magic that certain artists have skilfully captured through their intricate carvings. There are 16 trees that, just by looking at them, will tell you a story. They feature different types of carvings and are in various states of health. These trees can be found in municipalities such as Páramo del Sil, Sancedo, Vega de Valcarce, Carracedelo, Borrenes, Columbrianos, Molinaseca, Castropodame, Ponferrada, and Priaranza del Bierzo. This tradition began in 1992 when Domingo González first carved one of the many elm trees that died from Dutch elm disease. Since then, various artists have continued this practice, capturing the culture and way of life of El Bierzo in the form of sculptures.



Descenso Internacional del Pisuerga (cedida agencia Ical)



INTERNATIONAL DESCENT OF THE PISUERGA RIVER AND PALENCIA CANOEING FESTIVAL

On 15 August, the International Descent of the Pisuerga and Palencia Canoeing Festival is celebrated. This event has been held since 1965 and was declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest in 1973. It's a true spectacle in nature, with the finish line in Alar del Rey, a town where the impressive Canal de Castilla, an engineering marvel from the Enlightenment, begins. The starting point is in Olleros de Pisuerga, a town famous for its beautiful 10th-century rock church dedicated to Saints Justus and Pastor, where the paddlers begin their descent. Over 17 kilometres, they must navigate numerous rapids and five dams: Mave, Becerril, Nogales, the Campos Factory, and Soto. The festivities begin on 14 August with the traditional Flag Parade, the Coronation of the Canoe Queen and her Court of Mermaids, and the awarding of new Admiral Titles of the Pisuerga. After midnight, a fireworks display kicks off the Collar Dance. It's a festival where you can enjoy sports, tourism, and great food, including a popular paella feast after the descent. Will you be joining this great tradition?





CHICO AND MAYOR TUESDAYS IN CIUDAD RODRIGO, SALAMANCA

The first two Tuesdays in August are celebrated as "Martes Chico" (Chico Tuesday) and "Martes Mayor" (Mayor Tuesday) in Ciudad Rodrigo. These festive days transform the Plaza Mayor and the streets of Ciudad Rodrigo into a bustling market. Producers and merchants set up stalls showcasing products and crafts in stone, leather, wood, cardboard, textiles, ceramics, glass, drawings, engravings, jewelry, lace, and food. These events date back to 1475 when the Catholic Monarchs granted Ciudad Rodrigo the privilege of holding a free market "every Tuesday," as a royal token of gratitude for the city's loyalty. The traditional contest, in various categories such as trade, window display, stall or stand, and children's participation, awards elements related to transhumance and shepherding.



Romeria Hontanares. Laura Herrero (cedida Prodestur Segovia Turismo)



PILGRIMAGE OF HONTANARES, SEGOVIA

Declared a Festival of Tourist Interest in Castilla y León, the Pilgrimage of Hontanares is celebrated on the first Sunday after September 8, the feast of the Virgin of the Cloak. This pilgrimage route runs between the Hermitage of Hontanares and a cross near the Fuente de las Tres Gotas. According to tradition, a shepherd seeking refuge from harsh weather found the statue of the Virgin hidden in a cave during the Islamic invasion. The statue was next to a spring from which drops of oil intermittently flowed, keeping a lamp lit. The man, thinking that it had properties, started to use it and that is when the oil turned into water. Another legend speaks of three sisters: the Virgin of Hornuez (Moral de Hornuez), the Virgin of El Henar (Cuéllar), and the Virgin of Hontanares. It is said that their father, on his deathbed, placed them far apart to avoid their constant quarrels but still within sight of each other, so they could see but not argue.





LA PINOCHADA, VINUESA, SORIA

On August 16, the Pinochada is celebrated in Vinuesa, Soria, a festival declared of Tourist Interest in Castilla y León. The festivities begin earlier, with the "Pingada del Mayo" (Raising of the Mayo) on 14 August, and the day of the patron saint, the Virgen del Pino, on 15 August. The celebration's origins are believed to stem from the apparition of the Virgen del Pino on a pine tree at the border between the towns of Vinuesa and Covaleda, leading to a dispute resolved by the intervention of Vinuesa's women. The ceremony features two brotherhoods: one of married men representing Vinuesa and another of single men representing Covaleda. They engage in a unique dance battle, always won by the married men. Following this, the women, dressed in traditional piñorra attire, also battle, with the married women always emerging victorious. After the battle, the women of Vinuesa distribute "pinochazos" (pine branches) to the men, who are not allowed to flee.



THE FOOTSTEPS OF JEROMÍN IN THE MONTES TOROZOS, VALLADOLID

Monasterio de Santa María de la Espina, Valladolid



Jeromín, the natural son of Charles V, was born in Germany and brought as a child to Villagarcía, where he was raised by the King's steward. In 1559, his brother, Philip II, publicly recognised him at the Monastery of La Santa Espina, and he joined the royal family as Juan of Austria. The "Jeromín to Juan of Austria" tourist route explores the places associated with his life, combining history, heritage, nature, and gastronomy in the Montes Torozos. Highlights include the pre-Romanesque churches of Santa María de Wamba and San Cebrián del Mazote, the Hermitage of La Anunciada, the walls of Uruña, and the Collegiate Church of Villagarcía de Campos. Other attractions are the Cistercian Monastery of La Santa Espina and the Castle of Torrelobatón, now the Interpretation Center of the Comuneros Movement. The area around the Bajoz River reservoir is perfect for hiking and discovering its natural beauty. Local gastronomy features sheep's cheese from Castromonte and Castronuño, honey from the Montes Torozos, and D.O.P. Heredad de Uruña wine.





CHURCH OF SANTO SEPULCRO, TORO, ZAMORA

Welcome to the majestic Church of Santo Sepulcro in Toro! Immerse yourself in the rich history and architectural beauty of this emblematic place of devotion and culture. Built in the 12th century, this church is an architectural treasure that has stood the test of time, offering visitors a window into Spain's medieval past. Upon entering, you will be greeted by the imposing Romanesque structure and its unique sculptural details. Inside, you will discover impressive sacred artworks, from altarpieces to paintings, that tell stories of faith and tradition. The Church of Santo Sepulcro in Toro is a sacred destination for pilgrims and tourists alike. Here, you can experience the serenity of its sacred spaces, such as the Chapel of the Santo Sepulcro, which houses a replica of Christ's tomb. In addition to its spiritual significance, the church also offers a fascinating perspective on local and regional history. Its walls tell stories of kings, nobles, and pivotal moments in Spanish history. Whether you seek a spiritual, cultural, or historical experience, the Church of Santo Sepulcro in Toro awaits with open arms, ready to delight you with its timeless splendor and enduring legacy. Come and discover the magic of this unique place in the heart of Toro!



**REMEMBER, IN CASTILLA
Y LEÓN, YOU'LL FIND
EVERYTHING AND
MORE...
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
YOU!!!**



LAS POSADAS REALES PROPOSALS



Posada Real Santa María La Real, Aguilar de Campoo, Palencia



For a fully immersive experience involving the nature and authenticity of Castilla y León, we recommend Las Posadas Reales, our high-quality rural tourism brand! Not only will you stay in singular buildings, but excellent accommodations and service are guaranteed! They are the perfect place to stay for an unforgettable experience, immersing yourself in all the activities, heritage and nature of Castilla y León.



ÁVILA

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info@loscincolinajes.es

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- **POSADA REAL EL LINAR DEL ZAIRE**

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www.lasmayas.es
informacion@lasmayas.es

- **POSADA REAL HOSPEDERÍA JARAMILLO**

www.hospederiajaramillo.com
info@hospederiajaramillo.com

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- **HOTEL RURAL EL RINCÓN DE BABIA**

www.elrincondebabia.com
informacion@elrincondebabia.com

- **POSADA CASA DE TEPA**

www.casadetepa.com
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- **POSADA REAL HOSTERÍA CAMINO**

www.hosteriacamino.com
informacion@hosteriacamino.com

PALENCIA

- **POSADA REAL SANTA MARIA LA REAL**

www.posadasantamarialareal.com
reservas@alojamientosconhistoria.com

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ruralmusical@gmail.com

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castillo@buenamor.net

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- **POSADA REAL CASTILLO MONTE LA REINA**

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RUTAS DEL VINO PROPOSALS



Nature is certainly one of the biggest attractions of Las Rutas del Vino de Castilla y León. Hundred year-old vineyards are surrounded by fairytale scenery where flora and fauna coexist in perfect harmony, creating a magical horizon full of contrasts.

Natural, warm and welcoming spaces give our wine and people a unique personality. Nature parks, protected spaces, rivers, tracks and trails will allow you to leave your worries behind and reconnect with yourself. It's nature in its purest form.



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hola@rutadelvinoarribes.com

- **BIERZO WINE ROUTE**

Wines with their own personality, Nature, Medieval architecture, Major towns, Way of Saint James. We have plans for you!!!!

<http://www.bierzoenoturismo.com>

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Our countless heritage, our wines, our gastronomy, and our people who welcome you with open arms, an experience that leaves its mark.

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<https://rutavinozamora.com/>
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INCOMING TOUR OPERATORS PROPOSALS

In this newsletter, we would also like to share the proposals of some incoming tour operators in Castilla y León that organise different activities based on their thorough knowledge of the area and extensive experience.

- **PILGRIMS' ROUTE TO SANTIAGO OPTIONS**

Specialised in the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.
www.rutasdelcaminodesantiago.com/historia-del-camino
miguelangel@rutasdelcaminodesantiago.com

- **DESTINO DIVINO**

Wine tourism and family tourism activities.
www.destino-divino.com/experiencias-en-familia/
Info@destino-divino.com

- **NIS-NORTH INCOMING SERVICE SL**

Unique Wine & Gastronomy experience in Rueda, Ribera del Duero and Basque Country.
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- **TOP RIBERA DEL DUERO**

Receptive tour operator in Ribera del Duero: tourism packs, accommodations, wineries, restaurants, recreational options...
www.topriberadelduero.com
info@topriberadelduero.com

- **VITORSALAMANCA**

Discover the province of Salamanca through half-day or full-day experiences.
www.vitorsalamanca.com
info@vitorsalamanca.com

- **RESERVASLEON.COM**

Specialised in romantic, cultural and adventure getaways in the city and province of León.
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reservas@reservasleon.com

- **VERONIA TOURS SL**

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veroniatours@veroniatours.com

- **ALACARTA WINE & GOURMET TOURS**

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www.alacarta.es
info@alacarta.es

- **BINATUR**

Summer in Bierzo with children. Holidays with kids.
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- **LA MIRADA CIRCULAR**

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www.mundicamino.com
travel@mundicamino.com

- **WELLBEDS**

Reservation portal specialized in health and well-being.
www.wellbeds.es
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- **THEWAYTOURS**

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info@thewaytours.com

- **NATURALISTE**

Trips and tours to Arribes del Duero, Sierra de la Culebra, Sanabria, Sierra de Francia...
<https://naturaliste.es/>
info@naturaliste.es

- **CULTUR VIAJES**

Cultural getaways for adults focused on Palencia's Romanesque jewels.
www.culturviajes.org/escapadas
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- **INCOMING SALAMANCA**

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