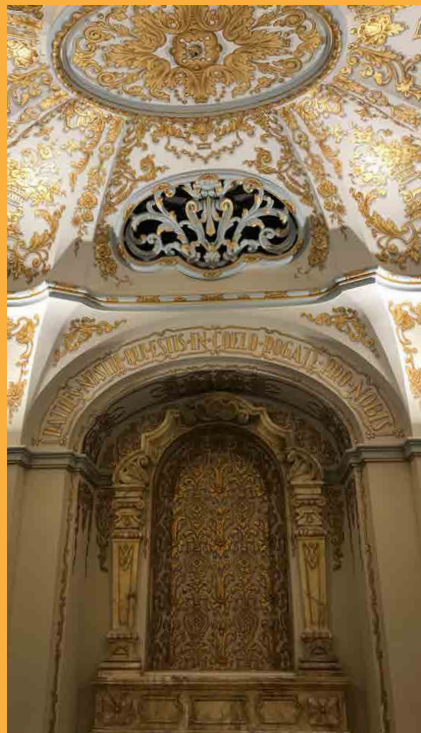




Benicàssim

VILLA ELISA

This small palace was built in 1942. It belonged to Elisa Carpi, the wife of Earl Joaquin Bau. The villa has a Roman bas-relief on one of its side walls and a garden that houses more than 30 plant species, including an impressive "Ficus macrophylla" standing nearly six meters tall. Villa Elisa has been property of the town since 1982. Currently, this palace is a socio-cultural centre.



EMERGENCY 112
LOCAL COUNCIL 964 300 962
LOCAL POLICE 964 303 500
NATIONAL POLICE 062

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TOUR AND KIDS. REGION OF VALENCIA PRODUCT CLUB FOR FAMILY HOLIDAYS www.tourandkids.com

LA SÀRIA TOURISM, GUIDED TOURS
Tel: 635 12 00 29 / www.lasaria.com

BENICÀSSIM AUDIO GUIDES

The city council makes available to all its visitors the audio guide service downloadable from the tourism website:

www.turismobenicassim.com

The audio guide is available in 6 languages (Spanish, Valencian, English, French, German to Italian)

USEFUL INFORMATION



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME FOR GUIDED TOURS

Dramatized and cultural routes. On-site sale of tickets at the CasaAbadía Tourist Information Office (C/ Santo Tomás, 74), Torre Sant Vicent (Paseo Bernat Artola, s/n) and Heliopolis (Av. Ferrandis Salvador, s/n) and online at www.turismobenicassim.com. Payment can be made by credit card only.

BENICÀSSIM BELLE ÉPOQUE, HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT OF THE 1920s

The Belle Époque celebration in Benicàssim is an extraordinary traditional display of the origins of tourism in the town, held during the first weekend of September.



TOURISM APP BENICÀSSIM



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INTERPRETATION CENTRE TORRE DE SANT VICENT



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EDICIÓN 12/2020



route of the villas



Benicàssim



route of the villas

Dreamlike architecture and magnificent gardens

The discovery by high society of Benicàssim's stunning seaside landscape, combined with its excellent climate, led to the first of its villas to be built in 1887. It is a beautiful stretch of coast that shimmers under the rays of the Mediterranean sun, reflecting the vibrant blues of the sea. The perfect holiday destination place for the whole family. And if it's like that today, just imagine what it was like back then. By the end of the nineteenth century, Joaquín Coloma Grau had become the real estate agent for this unique summering spot with elegant, coquettish residences that attracted the wealthy classes of the nearby Valencia and Castellón. For some time, the coast of Benicàssim, dotted with these famed villas, would be known as "mini San Sebastián" or the "Valencian Biarritz".

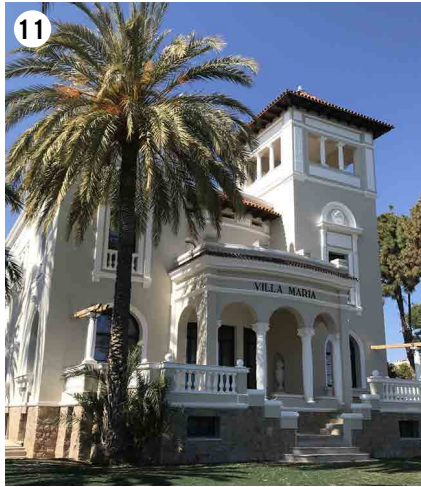
The region's first "flower and cream" festivals were held in this context, glamorous nights underneath the stars of the Levantine sky. The festivities would continue well into the night, with Benicàssim's residents watching on from a distance, full of curiosity. But what started as something of a novelty, over time became

tradition. Every soirée held by the lords and ladies at Hotel Voramar had its counterpart in the old town, where the strains of the music could be heard. Local residents would meet up, infected by the party atmosphere, to enjoy the music, and were joined by the servants and housekeepers that accompanied the lords and ladies of the villas every summer.



ROUTE OF THE VILLAS

The Route of the Villas, whose buildings stand watch over the beach, is divided into two zones, one named Hell and the other, the Celestial Court. The two areas are separated by a ravine, a section of no-man's land roughly halfway along the route dubbed Limbo. This curious division dates back to the golden age of these villas, to the Belle Époque, and came about in response to the kinds of activities that went on on either side of the ravine.



Hell was so-called because of the livelier, more unruly characters of the people who lived there. The first villas to be built were built on this side of the ravine, belonging in their majority to members of Valencian high society. With them would arrive the first glamorous parties that lasted well into the next morning.



In 1930 the first villa of the Celestial Court was built: Villa Dávalos. To its rear there is a ceramic piece bearing the image of St. Teresa. This religious reference is also found in the names of other residences in this area, like Villa Santa Cristina and Villa Santa Ana. If we then consider the more peaceful nature of the people living in them, we can perhaps understand how the curious nomenclature of the different sides of the ravine came about.



1.- VILLA SOLIMAR

The front garden of this villa has sculptures that evoke classical motifs. Indeed, it achieved renown for the layout of these sculptures: as a general rule the naked torsos of this kind of sculpture were to be turned to face the street, but the strict moral codes of the time dictated they be positioned to face the building, earning the villa the nickname “Villa of the Bottoms”.

4.- VILLA ILUMINADA

This villa and its grouping, with Villa Marina and Villa Santa Cristina, are simple constructions built between the 1880s and 1920.



8.- VILLA DÁVALOS

Built in 1930, it is the first villa of what would become the Celestial Court. It is a peaceful meeting point separated from the livelier Hell by Limbo. It is built after the style of a villa in Biarritz.

10.- VILLA ANA

Located between Villa María and Villa Julia, the latter of which was frequented by painters, writers and artists, and even mobility – it was once visited by the Infanta Alicia de Borbón. It is currently the Mar Villa Ana Cultural Centre.



11.- VILLA MARÍA

Built in 1925 by the architect Francisco Maristany on a large plot of land used as a driveway for carriages, along its northern façade, and a pergola and arbour in the garden.

12.- VILLA ROSITA

Built in 1931 by Ramón Barea. To the rear of the building there was a concrete air raid shelter. The nearby Villa Gens brings a Nordic feel and diversity to this group of villas.

16.- VILLA DEL MAR

Located to the north of its group of four, with Villa Isabel, Villa Carmen and Villa Gracia, this villa has an ecclesiastic aesthetic and strong architectural lines, which make it stand out from its surroundings.

17.- VILLA PONS

Built in 1905, it was used as a hospital during the Civil War.



20.- VILLA AMPARO

Built between 1880 and 1920, it is one of the oldest constructions of the group. Nearby is Villa Socorrito, which has changed dramatically over the years from its original appearance, now topped by two turrets.



21.- VILLA VICTORIA

Built in 1911, it was one of the most important villas of Hell, known for its parties and soirées. Its owners hosted many distinguished guests. It was later used as the hospital library during the Civil War.

25.- VILLA ELISA

Built in 1943, on the same plot of land as many of the area's first villas.

26.- VILLA CON TORRE

A glazed tower marks the first villa at the far north of the route, adjacent to the Our Lady of the Pillar chapel. The tower serves to accentuate the unique profile of this union of buildings of different heights. Together with the palm trees, its battlements form a beautiful tapestry of ochres, oranges and greens.

27.- HOTEL VORAMAR

Conceived as a café-restaurant, the licence issued in 1930 allowed it to extend its terrace towards the seafront and develop a hotel based on the existing structure. In a short period of time it became the meeting point and venue for many a lively party. During the Civil War, the rooms of Hotel Voramar and Villa Pons were used as a hospital, giving a bed to both Hemingway and Alejo Carpentier.

