



### PALACETE MUNICIPAL VILLA ELISA

Built as a summer home in 1942 by Vicente Traver Tomás, on the site where several pioneering villas, such as Pilar Coloma, were located. It belonged to Count Joaquín Bau, who named it after his wife, Elisa Carpi. It is structured as a 3-floor mansion, with a grand porch, large terraces and an Andalusian-style rear courtyard.



The villa's spectacular garden is home to more than 30 plant species from across the world, including an impressive "Ficus macrophylla", standing 18 metres tall and 6 metres wide and declared a monumental tree. It was bought by the Town Council in 1982 and, after undergoing renovation, its noble spaces —such as its vestibule, chapel, great staircase, halls and kitchen— have been preserved in their original state. Nowadays, it is the perfect venue for concerts, theatre performances, conferences, civil weddings and celebrations such as the Benicàssim Belle Époque historical reenactment.



### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### TOURIST INFO BENICÀSSIM CASA ABADÍA

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#### TOURIST INFO BENICÀSSIM TORRE DE SANT VICENT (HIGH SEASON)

Paseo Marítimo Bernat Artola s/n

#### TOURIST INFO BENICÀSSIM HELIÓPOLIS (HIGH SEASON)

Av. Ferrandis Salvador s/n

#### CENTRE D'INTERPRETACIÓ TORRE DE SANT VICENT

Av. Ferrandis Salvador, 1  
Tel: 964 766 814

#### GUIDED TOUR OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Fun is just a step away! Discover Benicàssim on one of our amazing range of tours, delving into the town's culture, rich landscapes and most emblematic places. Enjoy this unique experience led by top experts.

Tickets at Tourist Info Offices and at [www.turismo.benicassim.es](http://www.turismo.benicassim.es). Payment will be made by bank card exclusively.

#### BENICÀSSIM AUDIO GUIDES

Benicàssim local council provides an audio guide service available in different languages that can be downloaded from the Benicàssim Tourism website [www.turismo.benicassim.es](http://www.turismo.benicassim.es) or the APP Turismo Benicàssim.

EMERGENCY 112 - LOCAL COUNCIL 964 300 962 - LOCAL POLICE 964 303 500 - CIVIL GUARD 062

### 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.



EDICIÓ 11/2022

#### TOURISM APP BENICÀSSIM



#### CENTRE D'INTERPRETACIÓ TORRE DE SANT VICENT



# route of the villas



## Benicàssim 3



### 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 Castellon. 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 "Espai Cultural de la Mar Villa Ana".

## 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

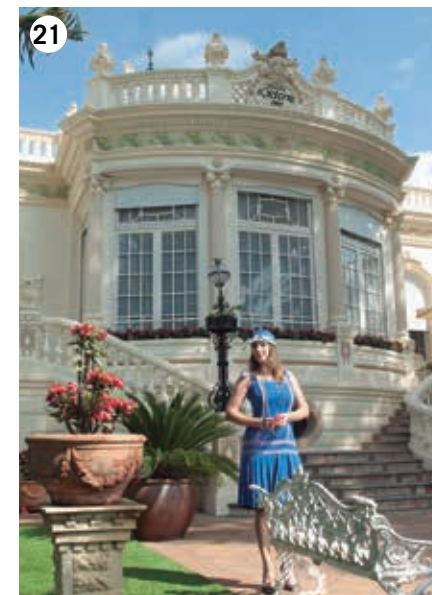
Built between 1880 and 1920, it is one of the oldest constructions of the group. Nearby is Villa Socorrito, which has changed dramatically over the years from its original appearance, now topped by two turrets.

## 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.- PALACETE MUNICIPAL VILLA ELISA

Built in 1942, 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.

