

# Spanish Culture & Cuisine

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Day trip to Carcaixent: "The cradle of the Valencian orange"**



Spain is Europe's largest orange producer and two thirds of those oranges come from the region around Valencia. They are said to be among the best in the world and their cultivation in Spain goes back to 1781 to the Valencian locality of Carcaixent, where the first plantation of *Citrus Aurantium* was established. The millions of orange trees are green the year round, clothed in delicate white blossoms in spring and bright orange in the autumn when each tree is laden with some 500 oranges. The extent to which Valencia's economy has for centuries relied on oranges is clear to see by a visit to the majestic *Estación del Norte*. The *azulejos* (glazed tiles) and decoration on the façade and within the station tell the story of the Valencia orange.



The tour will commence with a visit to the famous *Magatzem de Ribera (Warehouse of Ribera)*, one of the most significant buildings of the city built in 1904 in an eclectic style with modernist decorative elements, considered to be the *Cathedral of the Orange*.



Next, a visit to the *Palau de la Marquesa de Montortal*, built around 1780 and renovated in 1850. The building consists of ground floor, noble floor and chamber. Although the architectural composition of the entire building is remarkable, the most outstanding element is the interior decoration, since it has a very important display of ceramic tiles from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a magnificent kitchen decorated with ceramics.

The building was acquired by the city council in 1988 and used since 1993 for municipal purposes.



The last destination will be to the nearby *Huerto de San Vicente*, for a guided tour, which will include a walk through the gardens and a typical Valencian orange grove dating from 1870, to learn all about the cultivation of the orange and its varieties. There will be a tasting of the oranges and the day will be rounded off with lunch at the nearby *Restaurante Ribera*.



## PROGRAMME

- 08.30 hrs: Departure from Interiors, Javea port, short comfort stop en route.
- 10.00 hrs: Visit to the *Magatzem de Ribera (Warehouse of Ribera)*, Carcaixent
- 11:00 hrs: Visit to the *Palau de la Marquesa de Montortal*, Carcaixent
- 12:00 hrs: Guided tour of the *Huerto de San Vicente*, Carcaixent with a tasting of the oranges.
- 13.30 hrs: Re-board our coach for the short journey to *Restaurante Ribera* for lunch.
- 15.45 hrs: Departure for return to Javea.
- 17.30 hrs: Approx. arrival at Interiors, Javea port.

**BOOKING** for this trip will be open from 09.00 hrs on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March via email, with payment on or before the Javea U3A general meeting in the Parador, or before by bank transfer (please use the bank reference code: ORANGE plus your name and email us a copy of the bank transfer document). **Price: €35 pp - please give your choice of main course and desert on booking.**

Angela Chantry & Tony Dearie

Group Leaders: Spanish Culture & Cuisine

