

SANT CELONI

forest cuisine heritage

Route through the village center



In the middle of the Tordera River basin, the village of Sant Celoni is the main town in the Baix Montseny region and the doorway to the Montseny and the Montnegre and Corredor, protected natural areas with a great deal of biodiversity and beautiful landscapes.

Sant Celoni boasts attractive buildings and traditions that evoke its history and the vitality of its people. Among the highlights of its architectural heritage are the Parish Church of Sant Martí, with its magnificent Baroque façade, decorated with the most important sgrafitti in Catalonia, and the medieval complex of Sant Martí de Pertegàs with its Old Rectory, which unveil the town's origins to visitors.

The cuisine of the Baix Montseny, which is very closely linked to the region's local produce such as mushrooms and chestnuts, has a wide reputation that attracts many people throughout the year who come here to taste and enjoy its local flavours. The chef Santi Santamaria of Can Fabes was the leading promoter of Baix Montseny cuisine throughout the world.

From way back, Sant Celoni has been an important trade centre, thanks to its proximity to natural resources and its strategic location on the most important road route between Catalonia and Europe. Its weekly market, documentary evidence of which goes back to as early as 1157, was a meeting place for the Baix Montseny inhabitants and it still operates today, attracting the town locals as well as people from the neighbouring towns.

The walk we have marked out for you will unfold the history of Sant Celoni through the legacy that the people who once inhabited this land have left behind.

We hope you enjoy it!



1 Hospital Vell

The Hospital de Sant Antoni or of "poor and ill" consists of the hospital and the chapel. Above the hospital entrance is a stone relief depicting the crucifixion. The chapel was rebuilt in 1752 and houses a popular baroque altarpiece. The Tourist Office is on the ground floor of the hospital.



2 Quico Sabaté

On January 5th 1960 Sant Celoni witnessed the shooting of the most well known urban guerrilla during the Franco dictatorship, Francisco Sabaté Llopart. Wounded in an ambush in Palol de Revardit, where the rest of his comrades were killed, he jumped off a moving train near Sant Celoni in search of a doctor. In Santa Tecla street, the town sheriff and the Civil Guards put an end to his 21 years of struggle against fascism. He was buried in the civil section in the town cemetery His grave was refurbished to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death.

3 Parish church of Sant Martí

A baroque building, inaugurated in 1703. It is rectangular with side chapels between buttresses. The marble masonry entrance is from 1753. Its most outstanding feature however is the sgrafitto decoration resembling an altarpiece, on the facade (1762), the most important sgrafitto work of Catalan Baroque.



4 Major Street

The town grew along the Major street around a stretch of the medieval royal road. The Major street and the Vila square are the town's shopping centre with traditional shops and establishments that cater to the surrounding region of the Baix Montseny.

Casa Soler de Vilardell

Built between the XVII and XVIII centuries, it has a highly symmetrical facade with large stone openings. Its highlights are the wrought iron balcony and decorated tiles. It was once the mansion of the Barons of Vilardell, descendents of Soler, who slew the legendary dragon with the sword of virtue.

5

Vila Square

The square is the centre of daily life in Sant Celoni. The market, fêtes and major events are all held here and it is the meeting place par excellence. With some of Sant Celoni's most emblematic buildings, the square is a representative nucleus of the town.

Voltes

The "voltes" or porticoed houses are typical of the middle ages and were built in the XV and XVI centuries to house the weekly market, mentioned as far back as 1157 in front of the Força. At can Bonsoms, one can also see a beautiful XVI foliated ogee window.

Hotel Suís

It was the Valls family's town house, built in 1886. The Valls family were large forest landowners in the Olzinelles borough. The main facade is crowned by a triangular gable bearing inscriptions and the family coat of arms. It became a hotel in 1924.



Can Ramis

This XVII-XVIII century house was renovated in 1950. Most of the original features were kept, such as the front entrance with the Ramis family coat of arms but others were added, such as the gallery of ogee arches on the second floor, salvaged from a house in Barcelona.



Town Hall

An elegant "noucentista" style building, completed in 1926 by the architect Josep Domènech Mansana. It has a tiered structure and the centre tower with the clock and the iron belfry hovers above the rest. Its most outstanding features are the brick decorations and the sturdy eaves of the roof.



Dance of Gitanes

A typical dance of the Vallès region. In Sant Celoni it is danced with different music, dance steps and costumes. References to it go as far back as 1767. It is danced on the Sunday of Carnival in Plaça de la Vila. In 2000, Carles Colomo dedicated a statue to commemorate the 20 years of the recovery of this traditional dance.

6

Can Fabes

Founded by Santi Santamaria in 1981, Can Fabes was the first Catalan restaurant to be awarded three stars by the Michelin Guide in 1994. Santi Santamaria died on February 16th, 2011.

7

Força Neighborhood

The "Força" or city wall protected the old town center around Sant Celdoni chapel and the medieval royal road. The wall is first mentioned in 1154 but it underwent significant building work in the XIV century. Remains from the Main Gate or Barcelona Gate can still be seen on the corner of Mai Tanquis. In the Força neighbourhood there are XVI century houses with stone entrances and windows. Some of them bear inscriptions such as the one in 161 Major Street, which depicts a blacksmith's anvil and the date: 1589.

Força Tower

The walled precinct of the Força was approximately 37 metres wide and 135 metres long and was circled by a "vall" or moat (that's where the Valls street gets its name from). The Força tower, with its sloping base, was renovated in 2009. You can enter it and walk to the top.



Can Casquet Tower

Of the five round towers on the Força only two still stand today plus the angle of a third tower. The tower of Can Casquet (Aymar family) is clearly visible from Josep Alfaras square. The merlons at the top are modern.

8

Sant Ponç

A late Romanesque chapel, around the XIII century. It was part of the leper hospital called Sant Nicolau which once lay outside the walls. It has a single nave, a semi circular apse, buttresses and one can see "ear wheat" (*opus spicatum*) masonry on the walls.



9

Escorxador

The slaughterhouse was built in 1926 by Josep Domènech Mansana, the municipal architect. It has the same shape as a basilica type farmhouse, with a higher central nave to let more light in. It was renovated and extended in 1999 to house the Municipal library.



Repòs

Sculpture by the local sculptor, Lluís Montané i Mollfuleda. It was modelled in 1953 and was cast in bronze and erected in 2005 to celebrate the centenary of the artist's birth. There are other sculptures by Lluís Montané in Station square (Salomé), the parish church (Sant Martí...).



10

Rectoria Vella park

A beautiful garden surrounds the buildings of the town's original settlement (Sant Martí de Pertegàs and the Rectoria Vella) making these grounds one of the most pleasant spots in Sant Celoni. The garden was first laid out around 1920, when the Rectoria Vella was a summer vacation centre.

Sant Martí de Pertegàs

The former parish church, originally Romanesque and documented in the XI century, was consecrated again in 1106. Two side naves and lateral chapels were added in the XIV century. It still conserves the central Romanesque nave, covered by a pointed vault, as well as a gothic rose window above the doorway.



Rectoria Vella

A good example of a XV century civil Gothic building. A rectangular, almost square town house built around a central patio where one can see a beautiful window with slender gothic columns. This was once the abode of the rector and the clergy of Sant Martí de Pertegàs.

11

Tèrmica

A small industrial bay built around 1925-1930 by the architect Josep Domènech Mansana. It was once used to generate electricity. The cylindrical tank resting on a high column of granite slabs stands out. It currently houses the Municipal Archives.

