



La Safor Traditions

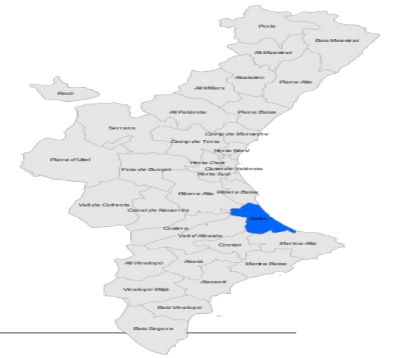
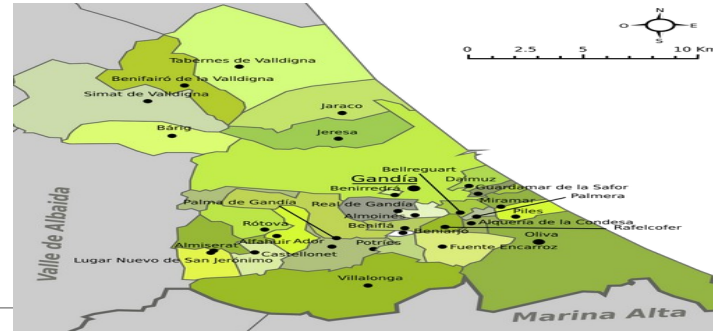
IES MARIA ENRÍQUEZ GANDIA, VALENCIA (SPAIN)



IES Maria Enríquez C/ Literat Azorín, 1 46702 - GANDIA
Tfno. 962829430 - Fax. 962829431
Codi: 46004221 - CIF: Q965627-I
46004221@gva.es
<http://iesmariaenriquez.com>



La Safor



Our High School, IES Maria Enríquez is located in Gandia. Gandia is located in Spain, in the region of Valencia.

Specifically Gandia is the capital city of La Safor shire.



La Safor Traditions. Les falles

Les falles:

- This is a festivity in honour of Saint Joseph. In this festivity we plant monuments in the Street that are burn on march 19.
- We celebrate parades, we throw firecrackers, we have music concerts and so on.
- The festivity is celebrated in villages all around Valencia and obviously in La Safor.



Miguel Pérez/Cope-Onda Naranja



Traditions. Els porrats

Els porrats:

- In our shire we have the porrats, which are Little fairs where you can find typical products such as fig bread, dried fruits, baubles, dates, toys, sausages and others.
- We also can find some fair attractions for the children.
- The porrats are celebrated in, January and February, in towns and villages as Gandia, Oliva, Benirredrà, Rótova or Potries and are celebrated in honour of several saints like Saint Macià, Sanit Antoni del porquet or Saint Blai.



The three wise men, Spanish tradition

The three wise men (the literal traduction from Spanish is the three wizard kings):

- They are the men that were supposed to carry presents to child Jesus.
- In our shire, the same than in the rest of Spain, celebrates the day of the 3 wise men on the 6 of January and it is the end of the Christmas celebrations.
- This day, the 3 wise men, carry presents to all Spanish children and adults. Children put some biscuits and milk at home for the wise men and the camels to take something to eat.
- In La Safor is very typical that day eating some traditional cakes like “Roscón de Reyes” and



Three wise men parade



On the left “Casca de Reis” typical in La Safor. On the right “Roscó de Reis” typical in all Spain.



The twelve grapes, Spanish tradition

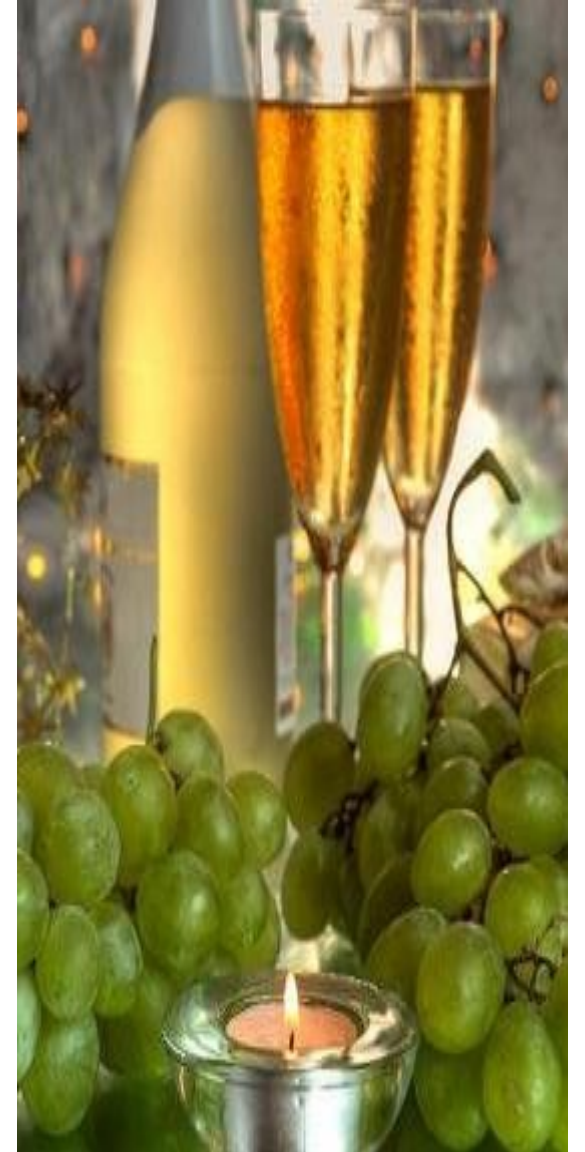
The 12 grapes:

- In all countries that celebrate the Christian New years eve, they have some special tradition.
- In Spain, the tradition is eating 12 grapes, one for each bell whe the new year starts.



Saying

¡Año nuevo, vida nueva! – New year, new life!!! – It means that with the new year arrives another opportunity to change your life and make it better.



Holy week, Spanish tradition

The Holy week:

- This is a tradition that exists in all the Spain. In Gandia we celebrate a Holy week with a lot of religious processions.
- In the processions you can see religious images of Jesus and the Virgin Mary.
- You can see as well people who get dressed into “nazareno” suits.



Moors and Christians, Valencian tradition

Moors and Christians:

- This tradition commemorates the reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula by the Christians conquered the lands occupied by muslim people (moors).
- This festivity is celebrated in some towns and villages of the north of Alicante and the south of Valencia.
- In our shire, the main town that celebrates Moors and Christians is Oliva, that celebrates in july.





Spanish tradition

Sant Joan (Saint John):

- This tradition commemorates the summer solstice. In each part of Spain it is celebrated in different ways but in the coast, specially in the Mediterranean beaches, such as La Safor beaches, it is celebrated on the beach sand, on the night of June 23.
- This night, friends and families meet on the beach around bonfires. At 00:00, the tradition says that you have to jump the bonfire or 3 waves in the see.

Saying

Per Sant Joan el primer bany!
(valencian) – At Saint John the first bath!!! – It means that by Saint John, summer starts and heat arrives.



Festivity of Virge del Carme (Virgin of Carmen), La Safor tradition



Verge del Carme:

- It is celebrated on July 16 in the sailor quarter of Gandia.
- There is a procession with two virgins images (Verge del Carme I Mare de Dèu Blanqueta), through the sailor quarter of Gandia. At the harbour, each image is taken into the sea with two fishing boats. Everybody who have a boat can accompany the images.



Gandia fair (Fires de Gandia), La Safor tradition

Fires de Gandia:

- They are celebrated on October 3 in our city, in honour of our Patron Saint San Francisco de Borja.
- There are several days of street theatre, music concerts, fair attractions, and lots of surprises.
- The festivity starts with the Tio de la porra (Uncle of the baton). This is a tradition that since 1934 consists of the band going school by school to say children that the festivity starts and they can go out the school.



Tio de la porra
(Uncle of the
baton)

Saying

A la fira no vages si no tens diners, doncs voràs moltes coses i no compraràs res (typical saying of Gandia)– Don't go to the fair if you don't have money, since you will see lots of things and you will not buy anything