



COSTA BRAVA INTERNATIONAL CLUB NEWS

APRIL 2023 - #24

April already! What happened to March? Well, it started off with the calcot luncheon at the GPL. There are a few photos, sure to make you laugh. Two other events were held in March; the games/ bingo/games night was canceled as not enough members registered to attend. We are trying to offer an assortment of new and different events for members this year. Some will be successful, some not. Clearly, many members appear to enjoy outings that involve lunch! We are launching a new group called Culinary Adventures with the focus on a fine dining experience. Some of the outings we are contemplating, a day in Thuir, France, an overnight in Bouzigues with a focus on oysters or St. Remy de Provence, France.



With warmer weather on the way, we have the usual group meetings and a few different April offerings, a trip to the UNESCO world heritage site, Sant Pau Hospital in Barcelona and a tour/ wine tasting at Perelada with lunch after at Malaveina Farm. And then onto May, good weather and more fun events to participate in....like the annual car rally!

-Linda Stuttard

March 6 GPL...A
Calcot luncheon



TOSSA DE MAR, a Special Place.... A Neolithic, Iberian and Roman enclave



The town has been populated since the Paleolithic times. The Romans chose this privileged place on the Costa Brava to build the city of "Turrisia" in the 1st century B.C. It was configured as a fortified enclosure, the only one preserved today and is perhaps the most prominent icon on the Catalan coast. Located in the bay on a small walled promontory, the standing castle

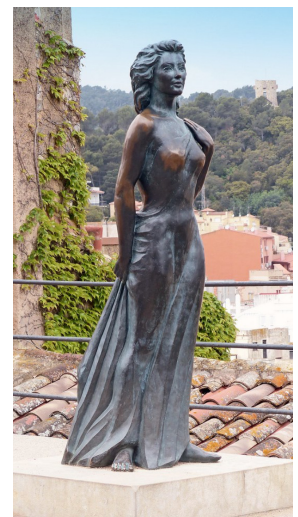
was built in the 11th and 14th centuries as a defense against piracy.

The old part of Tossa, with its irregular and narrow streets was built to be able to bridge the unevenness of the promontory, paved and stone, has not been affected by the passage of time. A walk through these streets is pleasant, giving the sensation of moving back in time to past centuries. Many of the houses that we find among its narrow streets are from the 15th and 16th centuries, with buildings that present certain Gothic elements.

During the 16th century the population began to expand outside the wall and has continued to grow to this day.

In 1931, Tossa was declared a National Historic-Artistic Monument; many national and international artists discovered its charms, its privileged situation and its natural beauty. The painter Marc Chagall baptized Tossa with the name of "Blue Paradise" after his summer stay in 1933 and 1934.

In 1950, Ava Gardner and James Mason arrived in the small town of Tossa to shoot the movie "Pandora and the Flying Dutchman." In the film, the town was baptized as "Esperanza". Obviously, this event turned it, during the years 1950 and 1951, into a Hollywood scene, accompanied by the love affairs and flirtations of Ava Gardner with Luis Miquel Dominguín and the Catalan bullfighter, poet and actor Mario Cabré. In addition to their wild parties accompanied by their corresponding excesses, under the moonlight of the Mediterranean Sea, lead to serious attacks of jealousy from Frank Sinatra, Ava's husband at that time. A magnificent life-size bronze sculpture of Ava Gardner resides in a magnificent space in Tossa, contemplating our Mediterranean Sea, an environment that captivated her deeply during her stay.



The memory of Ava Gardner remains in Tossa through the delicious, "illes de Tossa" better known as Ava's kisses. These are delicious meringues of different flavors that are served in boxes with the photo of the Hollywood star, the creation of the famous Tomás farm, a pastry shop opened in 1885. A stroll in Tossa is a journey through the history of the Catalan Coast.

-Vicenc Rosich - Quart - marzo2023

**EPICURIOS
CORNER
IS BACK!**

Traditionally Tossa de Mar's activity was fishing. Tourism is currently the main economic activity. Today, people have not forgotten a dish that originates from a time when fishermen sailed or rowed out to sea and spent many long hours fishing. For this reason it was customary to take a stove, some coal, a mortar and an iron pot that allowed them to prepare food on board. There was also a basket with potatoes, onions, garlic, tomatoes, peppers and a considerable sized oil can.

When it was time to eat, the fishermen put the onion and sliced potatoes in the pot, the shredded vegetables and a few cloves of garlic. They added the fish that came out broken from the nets they knew they could not sell (bastina, rain, spider, monkfish, etc...) and maybe a mussel or two, a good dose of oil, covered it with water, letting everything cook together over a rapid fire. With the mortar, they made a very abundant aioli and when the fish was almost cooked, the aioli went in the pot, everything finished cooking, between 2 to 5 more minutes. Then they removed it from the fire and it was ready to eat.

This exquisite delicacy is called, "cim i tomba". An expression that means something like shaking the pot so that what is above goes below and vice versa.

CIM I TOMBA

Ingredients for 4 people:

1kg of hard-fleshed fish cut into slices

1kg of potatoes cut into thick slices

3 tomatoes, salt, 2 garlic cloves, 1 onion, Extra virgin olive oil

Water, Aioli Preparation

Directions :

1. Fry in the the oil, onion, garlic and tomatoes in a saucepan
2. Add water, potatoes and let cook
3. Halfway through cooking the potatoes, add the fish, previously salted
4. When the fish is cooked, remove the casserole from the heat and cover with the aioli
5. Shake the pot so that the bottom part goes up and upside down

SERVE! BUEN PROVECHO!

-Vicenç Rosich





DO YOU KNOW ? There is a DROUGHT IN CATALONIA

Catalonia is in drought; officially for 30 months now and with this winter bringing little rain, things are serious.

There are five status levels for the reservoirs in Catalunya:

Normal - Early Warning - Alert - Exceptionality - Emergency.

There is only one reservoir at "normal" along the Costa Brava, the Baix Ter, which covers an area that includes La Bisbal and Torroella de Montgrí.

To the north, all the way to France, the Costa Brava is in either "Alert" or "Exceptionality" and to the south as far as Tarragona, is in "Exceptionality".

Reservoirs are running dangerously low on water at 27%. Altogether, 224 municipalities are now officially in "Exceptionality".

That's over 6.5 million people, about 80% of the population.

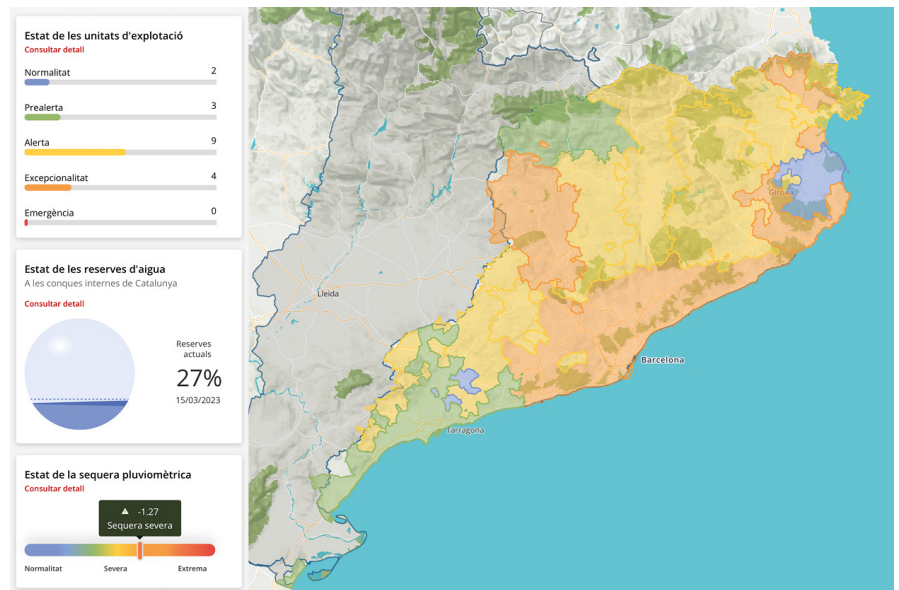
What does this mean?

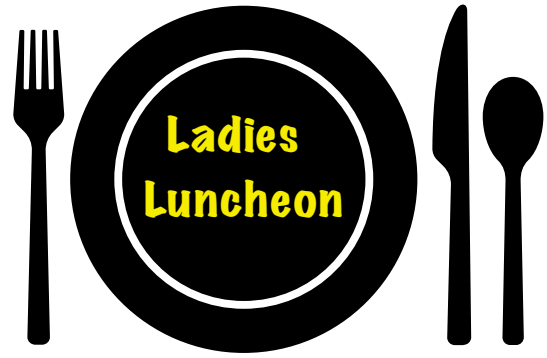
It means restrictions on drinking-water usage for industrial, agricultural, and recreational purposes; no filling swimming pools or washing the car, no water can be used for street or facade cleaning, or for fountains.

Sprinklers cannot be used for lawns, or public green areas either, with the bare minimum of water required to keep trees and plants alive being administered using a drip system. For all municipalities currently in the "Exceptionality" status, the water usage limit, since 6 March, is now 230 litres per person per day.

If things continue to worsen, the Generalitat may begin to enforce the daily restriction of 230 litres per person per day, if imposed there could be fines for exceeding the limit.

Note: credit goes to the CallCarlos newsletter for this article.





THE SEMI ANNUAL LADIES LUNCHEON WAS HELD ON MARCH 28 AT THE COSTA BRAVA HOTEL IN PLATJA D'ARO.

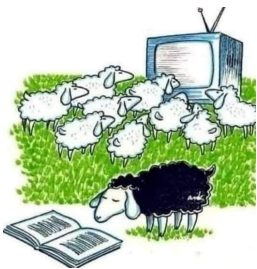
The ladies enjoyed a beautiful early spring day with a clear view of the spectacular coastline. Food, venue and service excellent! Thank you to Florence for coordinating a most enjoyable and successful afternoon.



The Pitch'nputt group usually meets twice a month in various locations around the area. Lunch often follows. Remember, if you would like to join the group, email: gsorbets@gmail.com



The book group meets monthly. In March, members of the book group discussed the novel, Elizabeth Finch by Julian Barnes. April's book up for discussion is VIOLETA by Isabel Allende on April 24 at the Costa Brava Golf at 15.00. Email: lindathompsonnobbs@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to join the group.



The Cooking Group will meet on April 1st at the cooking school in Girona. Interested in joining the group? Email: annekedevroom@gmail.com or eventsclub@gmail.com. Group communications are by WhatsApp.





**WHAT'S ON IN...
APRIL**

April 3rd - GPL - Costa Brava Golf Club

April 11 - Cooking group

April 13 - Pitch'nputt - Franciac, lunch after

April 18 - Cultural Excursion to Sant Pau Hospital, Barcelona

April 24 - Book group

April 25- Wine tour and tasting at Perelada, followed by lunch at Malaveina Farm

April 27 - Pitch'nputt - location to be decided

JUST AROUND THE CORNER.....THE ANNUAL CAR RALLY!

A special THANK YOU to Vicenç Rosich for his contributions this month. The next time I am in Tossa, I will definitely look for the Ava Gardner statue!

-Linda

Take a look at this month's events in our local communities:

PLEASE NOTE, THE VOSE FILMS LINK IS TO THE THEATER IN PLATJA. YOU CAN SEE WHAT FILM IS PLAYING IN ENGLISH - just click on the link

Llagostera <https://www.llagostera.cat/agenda.php> (auto-translate)

Santa Cristina <https://santacristina.cat/agenda/10893-historic-agendes.html>
(scroll PDF- Catalan auto translate in Adobe)

Sant Feliu <https://www.guixols.cat/agenda> (auto translate)

VOSE Films https://www.ocineplatjadaro.es/index.php?option=com_cines&task=vose&Itemid=248

Experiencing problems with these links? Email John Hothersall: j.hothersall@gmail.com

**2023 annual membership dues of 70€ couple - 35€ individual
If you have not paid, please pay at the next event you attend .**

**Is there something YOU would like to contribute?
JUST DO IT! EMAIL US!**

