

## La Mancha Wine and Don Quixote Tour

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2008

La Mancha is the homeland of Don Quixote, *the knight of the sad figure* created by Cervantes, one of the most famous Spanish writers. In this tour we will follow his steps through this area that is now starting to produce very good quality wine after years of massive production.

You will enjoy two winery visits with special wine tasting and a tour to the famous windmills fought by Don Quixote. We will also visit two castles in the way. We will taste the spectacular and famous **manchego cheese** always tasty, but really outstanding accompanied by a **good manchego white or red wine**.

### ITINERARY

**9.00 h. Pick up in Madrid and transfer to La Mancha.** The drive will take you through the flatlands of La Mancha planted with olive trees and vineyards. We will stop in **Consuegra where you will feel like stepping out of a novel, visiting the Knights of Malta Castle and the wind mills** that Don Quixote fought thinking they were giants.



Continue the drive to **Campo de Criptana**, another town famous for its wine and its wind mills, where we will **visit two wineries and we will taste its wine with manchego cheese. Followed by a traditional lunch with wine and local specialties.**

After lunch we will drive back to Madrid through Mota del Cuervo and Belmonte to admire the **Castle of Belmonte going back to the medieval time of knights and ladies**, war and crusades. **Estimated arrival time in Madrid: 20.00h**

**PRICE: from 200 euros per person**

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- Two winery visits with tour and wine tasting. Traditional lunch with wine. Lunch will be a three course meal with wine and coffee.
- Transport in a comfortable car, a minivan or a minibus with an English speaking guide/driver.
- Organization and planning. Tour information sent before the tour. Taxes
- Price does not include any personal expenses or service not specified.
- Price is per person and depends on the number of people in the group.



**WINERIES VISITED**

**Bodegas Castiblanque in Campo de Criptana. <http://www.bodegascastiblanque.com>**

C/ Isaac Peral, 19 - 13610 Campo de Criptana - Ciudad Real (España).



This winery inaugurated in 2003 is located in a restored XIX century wine cellar. It represents modernity and renovation in the center of the traditional region of La Mancha. Their goal is to make excellent wine using their own vineyard, tradition and the most advanced state-of-the-art winemaking technology. Their wines are commercialized under the denomination of origin Vinos de la Tierra de Castilla. They have 120 hectares of vineyards that cultivate: Garnacha, Tempranillo, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon for making red wines, and Airen, Chardonnay and Moscatel for making white wines. An innovative restructuring program will replenish Castiblanque's old vineyards with newer, nobler grape varieties, limiting production to increase quality. After the visit we will taste their wines with Manchego cheese

**Winery El Vinculo in Campo de Criptana. <http://www.elvinculo.com>**

Avenida de Juan Carlos I , s/n. 13610 Campo de Criptana (Ciudad Real). Tel: 926 56 37 09

This winery belongs to the group of Alejandro Fernández, the winemaker for Pesquera, the world famous wine in Ribera del Duero. It is the result of an old idea Alejandro Fernández had: making a great wine in La Mancha. He finally found what he was looking for after traveling around the region for some time. What he discovered were good very mature Tempranillo vines acclimatized to local conditions. If the vines were well cared for, selected and their production controlled, that great wine from La Mancha that Alejandro had always dreamt about could finally become a reality. That is how Alejandro's latest great project —and last for the time being— began. A beautiful typical building located near the windmills of Campo de Criptana and next to the railway station was converted into a modern winery designed to make limited quantities of top-quality wine.



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## D.O. LA MANCHA.

Located in the southern Castilian *meseta*, some 60 km from Madrid, **La Mancha is Spain's largest denomination of origin, occupying 30,700 km<sup>2</sup>**, and accounting for half of the land area of the provinces it encompasses. The strength of tradition in **the area's viticulture reflects a series of intrinsic and natural conditions that favour grape cultivation and wines with well-defined qualities**. La Mancha is ideal vineyard country because, although the yield per hectare is not very high, the quality of fruit, the ripening cycle and the health of the vines are extraordinary.

Long gone is the image of La Mancha as an immense plateau of arid lands that produced great quantities of wine with no thought to its quality. Nowadays, they have undoubtedly won their place among the world's more prestigious wines. La Mancha is also the world's largest wine producing area, with a total of 191,699 hectares of vineyards, a truly remarkable figure that allows the production of a large proportion of all the wine produced in Spain.

