



Photo by Karma Properties

Almond blossom & vineyards

By Karen Marco

Jalón is picturesque market town which lies in scenic valley in the Marina Alta region, to the north of Alicante province. The Mediterranean coast, with a succession of scenic coves and marvellous beaches, is just a few miles away.

Jalón has an ideal climate; the summers are hot and sunny, the evenings warm and inviting, while winters are pleasantly mild. This climate favours the cultivation of grapevines, oranges, almonds and olives.

The wine-growing culture is evident wherever you go. Local bodegas produce wines and mistelas, the distinctive sweet wine that the valley is famous for. The Moscatell grape produces a wine that is renowned throughout Europe, and the world!

Jalón old town

Wander through the maze of narrow streets to the town square and take a look inside the pretty blue-domed church. The local Wine Museum and the Ethnological Museum, which portrays how the locals lived in past centuries, are both worth a visit too.

On Saturday mornings, people come from miles around to browse the popular flea 'rastro' market which is held down by the shady riverbank.

Local produce and the good life

Mercat de la Terra, the 'Earth Market' is a market garden which takes place on the first Saturday of the month, by the church square (evenings 6pm till 10pm in the summertime).

Home-grown ecological and traditional produce is on sale at the stalls... tomatoes, lettuce, herbs, vegetables, oranges, almonds, honey, eggs, wine, sausages, home-baked bread and pastries, basketwork... Each month there's also an interesting exhibition of local agriculture craft.

Jalón is a favourite place for a drive out for lunch at one of the traditional restaurants.

Jalón = Xaló in Valencian, so remember to look out for the road signs!



Photo by Bodegas Xaló

Sit on a pretty patio in warm weather and admire the breathtaking views across almond or olives groves, and the vineyards. Try the local cuisine, cooked with fresh vegetables and herbs – favourites include roast lamb, rice dishes and typical hotpots – accompanied by the marvellous Xaló wine. Prices are reasonable, and many eateries offer all inclusive menus.

There are several walking routes around the valley; the most impressive to the ancient Fort high-up on the Sierra Bernia mountainside with panoramic views to the sea!

Like all towns throughout Spain, Jalón enjoys its share of festival! The main village fiestas (August), in honour of the town's patron saint, are celebrated with bull running, a paella competition, floats parade, fireworks, dancing and partying till dawn...

The 'Virgen Pobre' holy festival (October) is an excuse for week long celebrations with processions, a giant paella, firework display, street dancing, etc.

A privileged location, the peaceful valley so close to the Mediterranean coast, well connected to Valencia and Alicante cities, plus the remarkable climate, makes Jalón the ideal place to live... many expats have chosen to relocate here; they appreciate the tranquillity, join in local activities and integrate into the village community, enjoy the

pleasant way of life.

Jalón is the ideal getaway, stay over for the weekend or spend a few days here with time to relax, enjoy wine tasting at the bodega, savour the cuisine, or join in the festivities...

You can see more features about the Costa Blanca on my personal travel blog www.kalitravel.net



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