

ALMÁCHAR

UNIQUE PROVINCIAL TOURIST FEAST

The Ajoblanco Feast 🍴

First Saturday in September

Almáchar, situated in the centre of the district, is a town where the making of ajoblanco, a drink created to quench thirst in summer, is deep-rooted; so much so that it is considered a National Tourist Feast.

Thousands of visitors can savor ajoblanco and muscatel grapes in the numerous stalls set up along the streets of the town as they watch short plays based on everyday events performed by local inhabitants outside their front doors.

Visitors can enjoy musical shows, flamenco and folk dancing on the stage in Plaza de España all afternoon and evening.





AJOBLANCO WITH ICED MUSCATEL GRAPE DRINK

Ingredients:

4 garlic cloves, 200 g of skinned almond, 100 g stale country bread, 200 ml extra virgin olive oil, Sherry vinegar, Salt, 1 liter very cold water.

FOR THE ICED MUSCATEL GRAPE DRINK:

200 g muscatel grapes, ½ l. red wine, 1 glass muscatel wine, 200 g sugar, A splash of vanilla essence.

METHOD OF PREPARATION:

1.- Boil the garlic and the almonds in a saucepan with ½ liter of water for 8 minutes. Drain and cool in iced water and repeat.

2.- In a liquidizer, thoroughly blend the mixture of garlic and almonds for a few minutes. As you blend, gradually add the oil as if making mayonnaise. Next, slowly add the water and, finally, vinegar to taste. Strain and put to one side.

3.- For the iced drink, boil all the ingredients in a saucepan for 5 minutes. Allow to cool and then blend in a liquidizer. Strain and pour into an ice-cube tray or metal tray. Allow to cool for half an hour, take out and work the mixture with a spoon, to make the iced drink. Repeat twice until it has the right consistency and place in the freezer compartment.

4.- Serve the ajoblanco very cold in a glass along with the muscatel iced drink.

OTHER FEASTS OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS

Carnival

February

During Almáchar's carnival there are fancy dress competitions with prizes for the best costume for children and adults. The feast includes bands of street musicians from the town and from outsiders.

The Week for Older People

End of March

This is a week dedicated to older people and includes cultural, sporting and entertainment activities.

On Friday, last day of the week, there is a meeting of older people from Almachar, neighboring towns and various districts from Malaga. Hundreds of people come together that day and enjoy a cultural visit of the town. The day ends with an exhibition of ballroom dancing.





Fair and Procession in honor of Santo Cristo de la Banda Verde

First weekend in May

Of all the events that take place during the weekend, the outstanding one is the Sunday morning mass and afternoon procession in honor of the Holy Christ, accompanied by bands and fireworks in the midst of all the fervor.

The festivities start on Friday when the statue is taken from the chapel to its float. There is an open air dance with an orchestra and famous artists. There are also a number of sports competitions, dances, firework displays, etc. during the festivities.

Pilgrimage of Saint Isidro

Sunday nearest to the 15 May

The pilgrimage starts from Plaza de España when the statue of the saint is taken in procession to Paraje de la Cuesta Chica. This is one of the most established traditions and continues unchanged from time

immemorial. Amongst other events, there are dances, games, races, and carriage and paella competitions.

At sunset, Saint Isidro returns to the town and onto the church of Saint Matthew, accompanied by all the carriages which have taken part in the pilgrimage.

Fair of Our Lady of Amparo

Last weekend in July

This is the fair that Almachar celebrates in honor of its patron saint. The festivities include bands playing through the streets, entertainment, religious activities, modern and regional music, fair attractions, etc. The daytime fair takes place in Paseo de la Axarquía and is dedicated to the children on the Friday and to youngsters on the Saturday, when there is a foam party. On Sunday there is paella for all present plus attractions all day long.

Festivity of the Encounter of Three Cultures

4 to 6 December

These are three days dedicated to those who left the town and went off to other regions. Former inhabitants of Almachar return from autonomous regions such as Catalonia or the Basque Country. There is music, sport and traditional activities, food tasting and official ceremonies. Above all it is the chance to meet up with hundreds of people of all ages who, starting from a common culture, have got accustomed to other ways of life and cultures.

Meeting of Shepherds' Groups

End of December

This is a cultural meeting that is held in the Cultural Centre. Shepherds' groups from the town along with those from other towns like Mijas, Moclinejo and Benaque (Macharaviaya) participate. ■

FEASTS & FESTIVALS

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