



TRADITION

Saint John cakes: the sweet of the most magical night of the year

The open-air dance of Saint John is a party celebrated on the night of the summer solstice ≡ **The traditional cakes** from the Fleca Font candied with marzipan, cream and decorated with pine nuts, lardons, fruit or chocolate

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Saint John open-air dance (La revetlla de Sant Joan) is a party celebrated on the night of the summer solstice, the shortest night of the year, but also the most magical. It is a popular party deeply rooted in Andorra. A perfect occasion to get together, enjoy a good dinner with family and friends, eat the typical Saint John cake (coca) and complete the evening with firecrackers, always trying to use them in the most civic way possible.

This festivity begins with the reception of the Flame of Canigó, which lights the bonfires in each street where people dance around the fire or use it to burn old furniture to symbolize the beginning of a new season. There are people who bathe in the sea at midnight and it is another custom where in the past, doing so meant healing powers.

Revetlla de Sant Joan: The shortest, but also the most magical night of the year

It is inevitable not to associate the St. John's Eve with cakes and firecrackers. For sweet lovers, the moment of removing the cakes is one of the most awaited of the night. There are a lot of types of St. John's cakes, but we could say that the traditional ones are: Confit with marzipan, pastry cream, burnt cream or cream and decorated with pine nuts, lardons, fruit or chocolate. To accompany this sweet, it is usually made with sweet wine, stale wine or cava.

Origins of Saint John

The night of Saint John is a celebration that the Catholic Church coincides with the birth of Saint John the Baptist. Over time, the open-air dance has developed very marked customs such as fire, midnight baths, healing herbs, songs, dancing around the bonfire and other magical rituals.

Pastry chefs

Saint John is a holiday of a lot of work, but also a lot of sales for pastry chefs. The days before it is time to work hard to prepare the cakes. It's hard to make a forecast, but



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► The traditional cakes of Saint John from Fleca Font.

they usually do it based on previous years' turnover. This year, the open-air dance is the night from Friday to Saturday, as it falls on the weekend it is not known whether it will help sales or rather the opposite.

In the case of the Principality, some of the most traditional cakes are those from the Fleca Font, where they have been preparing it for days. Fleca Font cakes are made with flour, butter, sugar, salt, lemon flavoring, grated orange and aniseed. As for the garnish, they can be: Fruit, cream, angel hair, cream, pine nuts and chocolate.

Preparation of the cakes

The dough of the cake is very similar to that of bread, but like all traditional desserts it has its own characteristics. To make the dough you need: 500 grams of flour, 100 grams of sugar, one egg, 150 grams of butter, eight grams of salt, 190 milliliters of

Cakes from Fleca Font made with lemon flavor, grated orange and grain anise

milk, zest of a lemon and between 10 and 20 grams of yeast, depending on the fermentation time.

In the case of the pastry cream, what is needed to make it are: 200 milliliters of milk, two yolks eggs, 40 grams of sugar and 12 grams of cornstarch. As for the garnish, it is up to everyone's discretion and taste. Once we have the list of ingredients, we can start making the recipe for our St John's cake.

Despite having explained the preparation of the long-awaited sweet for Saint John, buying it from the pastry shops is a good way to support local trade and to contribute to the hours of work they have dedicated to it.

Celebration in other countries

Saint John's night is not only celebrated in Catalan-speaking territories, it is also a holiday in different parts of the Christian world. In Den-

mark, St. John's Eve is celebrated in a very similar way to how Walpurgis Night is celebrated in Sweden: Lighting bonfires at sunset. In some, the image of a witch is placed at the top. It is a tradition derived from the belief that the night of St. John is also the night of the witches.

In the case of Estonia, Finland and Lithuania it is an important holiday, in which Estonians gather with their relatives to eat, drink, sing and dance and also to light bonfires. And in Portugal there is the Feast of São João do Porto, which takes place during the night of June 23rd and the inhabitants of Porto go to the center of the city to give offerings to the Saint.

The Saint John open-air dance, wherever it is celebrated, is the ideal occasion to gather with friends or family and enjoy a magical night. ≡

TOURISM AND URBANISM

Water and light show to inaugurate Plaça de la Rotonda

Next June 29th at 10 p.m. an attraction will be offered for all citizens

With the new fountains, it is possible to recycle the river water and it will not affect the flow

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Next June 29th, La Plaça de la Rotonda in Andorra la Vella will be inaugurated, after a year of construction, with a large-scale show. The event will begin at 10:00 p.m. and will be open to all citizens, as reported last Thursday by the municipality of the capital.

With Plaça de la Rotonda they want to make a new tourist attraction in the parish, and it is launched to coincide with the start of the summer campaign. This one is based on a fountain on the Valira river, and its rays will be synchronized with a light and music show.

The second phase of the remodeling works of Plaça de la Rotonda began on June 28th last year, and according to what the Consul Major of Andorra la Vella explained last year, the cost was reduced in 500,000 euros, although the initial cost was 4.5 million euros.

During these last days, the last checks have been made to ensure the operation of the system. In fact, a dress rehearsal was held on Wednesday night. During the coming week, the scaffolding and the work elements installed there will be removed.

These fountains are born with the aim of becoming a claim for both tourists and citizens of the country, and will contribute to dyna-



COMÚ D'ANDORRA LA VELLA

►► Image of how the fountains will be.

mizing the commercial axis. With the inauguration of the colored fountains in Plaça de la Rotonda, the first phase of the project for the square itself and its surroundings is completed. In the subsequent phases, reforms are planned in other places of the parish, such as the roundabout in Plaça de Gel and the Central Park.

The municipality explained in a statement that over the next few days it will send a letter to the neigh-

bors to invite them to the inauguration and «to thank them for the patience they have shown after months of work».

The fountain system allows it to function by offering various light and water shows, which will last between three and six minutes, and the project foresees that more than 2,000 different choreographies can be made, such as axes, waterfalls, etc. The architect of the project, Pe-

re Cervós, said when the works began that «the shows can be in operation both day and night», and he remarked that once a show is over, it only takes 20 minutes to start another one.

River recycling/ These fountains have been built by Fluidra, a leading company in the sector, who in this project have developed an innovative system with the aim of recycling river water. This is in constant mo-

tion, unlike those in other parts of the world that operate in stagnant water such as artificial springs or lakes. From the municipality it was explained that «the project is totally respectful of the environment and will not affect the flow of the river in any case, since a tank has been built that recovers the water to be used during the choreographies without generating no additional water expenses». ≡

ORDINO

Dolsa and Pàmies accuse Mortés of a lack of information

The opposition of the Municipality of Ordino alleges that it is not informed of the projects

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ORDINO

Last Thursday, the councilors of the opposition of the Municipality of Ordino, Enric Dolsa and Barbara Pàmi-

es, alleged complaints that from the communal majority of the Consul, Josep Àngel Mortés, they are not informed of the projects that are being carried out to the end, specifically, of the new initiative that is being evaluated for the construction of a new residence for the elderly. Enric Dolsa has shown himself perplexed in front of the press, since the lack of

knowledge of this new project has left him stunned. The councilor declared that with respect to the final objective «it is not that he shares or stops sharing, because the problem we have in the minority is that we are not informed of anything». Bárbara Pàmies, for her part, also denounced this lack of communication and transmission of information

from the majority to the minority. The councilor asked for all the information available to the community, since «we want to know what is there and not take anything for granted».

Dolsa also argued with Consul Mortés, because he called the councilor's attention and wanted to impose on him, in sessions of the Municipal Council, to wear a tie when attending the plenary session. Dolsa already warned that he will not wear a tie since, when this regulation was approved, he already voted against it, and announced that he would make an appeal, which he has done

and has already entered the procedures of the Municipalities. In addition, Councilor Dolsa described the incident on the part of the Consul as worthy of a «school playground», in addition to recalling an example that happened in Spain, where the Spanish President «recommended to all his ministers and all the others (from the Spanish Executive) as much as possible to stop wearing ties because that way the air conditioning could be lowered and, therefore, save on energy». Therefore, the counselor will not wear a tie to the sessions. ≡

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