

1 The Roman Thermae at Puig de Sant Grau

1st century. Historical monument of national interest. The best preserved remains of the ancient Roman town of AQUAE CALIDAE, now known as Caldes de Malavella. The Roman thermae at Puig de Sant Grau were built around the year 50 AD on top of pre-existing, largely demolished *thermae* dating from the 2nd-3rd centuries BC. Few vestiges of the earlier structure are known to us, only the remains of flagstone flooring, a wall with arches, a minor section of the façade, and a small piscine. The 1st-century building is remarkably well conserved. The main feature was the large rectangular *natioio* (pool) measuring 7.90m by 6.65m, complete with access steps. The water operating mechanisms remain almost intact. The building is made up of a central large rectangular *natioio* (pool) measuring 7.90m by 6.65m, complete with access steps, surrounded by a series of rooms for receiving health treatments. The three spaces at the back, which were initially believed to be baths, are in fact rooms where oils were applied. They were eminently used for healing purposes and were mostly likely linked to the worship of Apollo or one of the other curing deities. The *thermae* continued to be used as such throughout the medieval period. Two small *piscinae* occupied the former sacred space, while the water circulation caused calcareous sediments to accumulate in the south and east wings. In the 14th century, Caldes Castle was built over the existing structure, but the original thermal function of the place remained unchanged until the 19th century, even after the building

2 El Puig de Sant Grau

I-XIX Century. This small hill is the source of several of Caldes thermal waters. These waters have been used as baths since the Roman Era. During the Medieval period, there was a castle on this hill. The towers of this castle and a part of its ramparts are still standing today. The Chapel of Sant Grau (9th century) It was the town's parish church until it became obsolete due to the population growth and because it was built on land with strong thermal water emergence that caused the corpses in the cemetery to become mummified rather than decompose. It was then decided that the new church of Sant Esteve (11th century) would be built outside the town walls. From that moment on, the St. Grau chapel became the place where the town council, representatives, etc. It was then that the industrialist Pau Estapé i Maristany bought most of the hill and built the bottling plant for the 'Aigua Imperial' there, in what is now the Plaça de l'Aigua. The project not only included the arrangement of the area and the organisation of the first archaeological excavation in the Roman baths (intended as a promotion for his product), but also the construction of a Modernist garden. The garden was decorated with small Neo-classical temples sheltering the fountains of Sant Grau, la Roqueta and l'Hospital. That entire compound became nearly derelict due to the decrease in the number of tourists, but it was finally acquired and refurbished by the town Hall.

3 The Medieval Ramparts

12th century. Medieval castle built on the remains of the Roman baths. It was demolished between the 18th and 19th centuries, and all that remain are part of the ramparts and its towers. 12th-14th centuries. From the 14th Century Caldes was a village defended by ramparts. Some parts are still standing, in Cal Ferrer de la Plaça, the chapel of Sant Grau, and the canal coming from the Font de la Mina. The ramparts are made of dressed stone with slits. The castle had its own old ramparts, of which three defence towers are still standing. One of these stands on the remains of the Roman baths.



12 The “Camp dels Ninots”

Signposted route around the paleontological site of Camp dels Ninots, declared National Cultural Interest. Beneath the cultivated fields, lies one of the few sites in the world that allow us to reconstruct an ecosystem from about 3 million years ago, namely during the period known as Late Pliocene. The name Camp dels Ninots (literally “field of dolls” in catalan) comes from long ago, when residents of Caldes would come to the area to find what they called ninots (“dolls”), odd, rounded stones that they played with, their imaginations transforming them into different figures. The scientific work they have undertaken since 2003 has allowed for the discovery of numerous fossil remains: birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals such as cows or tapirs, and various plants remains like leaf leaves, stems and pollen. Thanks to these studies we know that the site is located in the crater of an old volcano that went dormant, forming a lake.



From fire to water

Subtropical climate in the mediterranean

4 History of water-bottling

The first known bottling industry started in 1870, when the Pla i Deniel family obtained permission to export medicinal water under the name of ‘San Narcís’. In 1880, Dr. Modest Furest i Roca acquired some land on the Puig de les Ànimes in order to exploit its fountains called Gran, de la Cantera, Xica and del Fetge. The water was first commercialized under the name “Water from the Puig de les Ànimes”. In the year 1891 the water took on the name “Vichy Catalan”, an analogy to the recognized medicinal waters of the French spa of this name. Soon bottling plant became a considerable success. Towards the end of the nineteenth century the Puig de Sant Grau was acquired by the entrepreneur Pau Estapé i Maristany. There he built the bottling plant for “Aigua Imperial” in water is now the Plaça de l'Aigua. The project was accompanied by the arrangement of the area and the construction of a Modernist garden intended as a promotion for his product. Finally, the spas Soler and Prats bottled the water from the font de la Mina before the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, with the respective names “Agua del Balneario Prats” and “Fuente Cataluña”. After the war, the two firms amalgamated to produce “Aigua Malavella”, and were later taken over by Vichy Catalan S.A.

5 Crossroad of Ancient Routes

14th - 18th centuries. The medieval village of Caldes had the crossroads of four main routes as its nerve-centre. The North road went to Girona, the East one to Cassà and Llagostera, the West one was the road to Santa Coloma de Farners and the South one went to Vidreres. Each of these had its corresponding gate in the city walls. The cross engraved on one of the houses at the cross-roads and the hinge of the Girona gate attached in Cal Ferrer de la Plaça are all that remains as evidence of this ancient site.



Espai Aque

The Espai Aque de Caldes de Malavella is a centre that combines research, education and interpretation of the heritage of Caldes. A tour of the natural and cultural legacy forged over time by its waters.



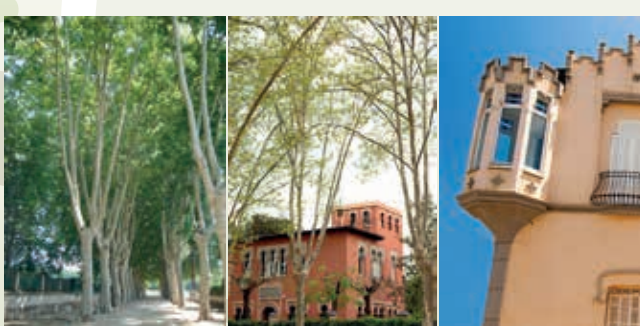
6 Font de la Mina and washhouses

The Font de la Mina is a hot spring, also known as the ‘raig d'en Mel’ (Mel's spout), and it was discovered while trying to build a mine in order to dry a swampy terrain. During the 1840s, its hot water was channelled through underground waterworks to some local hot baths, which would later develop into the Prats i Soler hot baths. The water from the fountain was bottled for consumption in the Prats hot baths under the name “Fuente Cataluña”, until it later merged into the “Aigua Malavella”. Finally, in 1985, Vichy Catalan bought it. The water emerges at about 60 °C and features famous properties; so it is common to find people of the region to take it. The nearby washhouses are filled from with hot water that the residents there and they were very well known due to the qualities of thermal water when used in laundry. This is the origin of the expression ‘Riera del Lleixiu’ (bleach stream) referred to the rivulet that runs in front of it, collecting the water.



7 Ramblas and summering houses

In the early 20th century second homes for summer residents were beginning to be built in the southern part of the nucleus of Caldes, with a tree-lined avenue as its nerve-centre. The promenade promoted by Bartolomé Recolons from Barcelona became a much-frequented place for the city dwellers who came here to take the waters. The houses they had built were clearly of Modernist and ‘Noucentista’ inspiration, with distinctive decorative elements like the moldings, crowns with curved tops and the ceramic and cast-iron work. Good examples include the houses called: Mas i Ros, Motlló, Josep Soler and Bell-Estar; and the Chalet d'Antoni Mas and the Colonia Rodríguez. The Rambla was made longer with a new tree-lined stretch, promoted by the owner of the neighboring farmhouse Can Rufi. The type of construction in this stretch was that of large detached houses, among which are the Villa Rosario and the Torre de Can Sala. Other interesting modernist houses in the historical city center: Quintana, Perxachs, Manegat, Pla i Deniel, Poet Matheu house, House of Punxes (of the spikes), Torre dels Ocells (of the Birds).



8 Sant Esteve Church

11th - 17th centuries. Eleventh-century church dedicated to St. Stephen. Its origins only preserve the Romanesque apses large, the Lombard style basilica plan. It has been renovated several times and what we see today is largely the seventeenth century. The Renaissance-style façade and sides of the door at the bottom, you can see a symbol of Caldas, large cauldrons. The Church is in the heart of Església Square and is surrounded by modernist, neoclassical and eclectic houses; the most prominent is the Villa Quintana. On the streets around it there are more landmarks like the Municipal Casino-Theatre.



The legend of the "Mala vella"

The Legend of the Mala Vella (Bad Old Woman, in Catalan) is located in the magical place of the chapel of St. Maurice, where this feudal old, bad and hunchbacked woman, was defeated to free the people of Caldes of high taxes and of the constant fear of the disappearance of their children. According to the legend, the Malavella Witch had a pact with the devil, whereby she could maintain the power over the villagers, but only if she was provided each night for dinner with a heart of a small child. Thanks to a stranger boy, Maurice, who discovered the terrible secret of the feudal witch, this evil old woman never came back to Caldes.



9 La granja and “la Vaca” fountain

The development of La Granja as a garden city, an area of second homes for summer residents, took place in the 1920s. According to the initial plan, these summer houses would all have a surrounding garden and a large park. At the beginning of the development plan, six houses were built in Noucentista style, as Villa Catalunya (Torre núm. 1), la Rectoria (Torre núm. 2) and Torre dels Cavalls (Torre núm. 5). The Font de la Vaca Park was destined to be its recreational area, and it included a Modernist fountain, a facility for children, known as the Casino, and a well. The fountain takes its name from the Catalan word for cow (vaca), and we can see this animal represented in one of its glazed tiles. The fountain is covered with a glazed tiles dome and the walls are decorated with sgraffito. The project did not prosper due to the loss of summer residents and the beginning of the Spanish Civil War. It's a pleasant, relaxing location and the best place to enjoy the fresh summer air.



10 Prats Thermal Spa

19th-20th centuries. The ancient Balneari Prats was a small spa, and used the water coming from the Font de la Mina. During the second half of the 19th century, due to the increasing number of summer residents, a new spa was built in the village centre. This new thermal centre was a great eclectic-style building, which was changed in 1912, by the architect Eusebi Bona i Puig, who also refurbished the main entrance and constructed detached houses, recently dismantled. The ‘Aigua del Balneario Prats’ was a small bottling plant but the increase in the demand of sparkling water gave way to the creation of a new bottling plant: Agua de Malavella, using the water from the Font de la Mina. There was then a change in the consideration given to thermal water from Caldes: from a simply medical consumption it became a drink for meals, with the subsequent increase in demand. Vichy Catalan S.A. acquired the bottling plant in 1985.



11 Vichy Catalan Thermal Spa

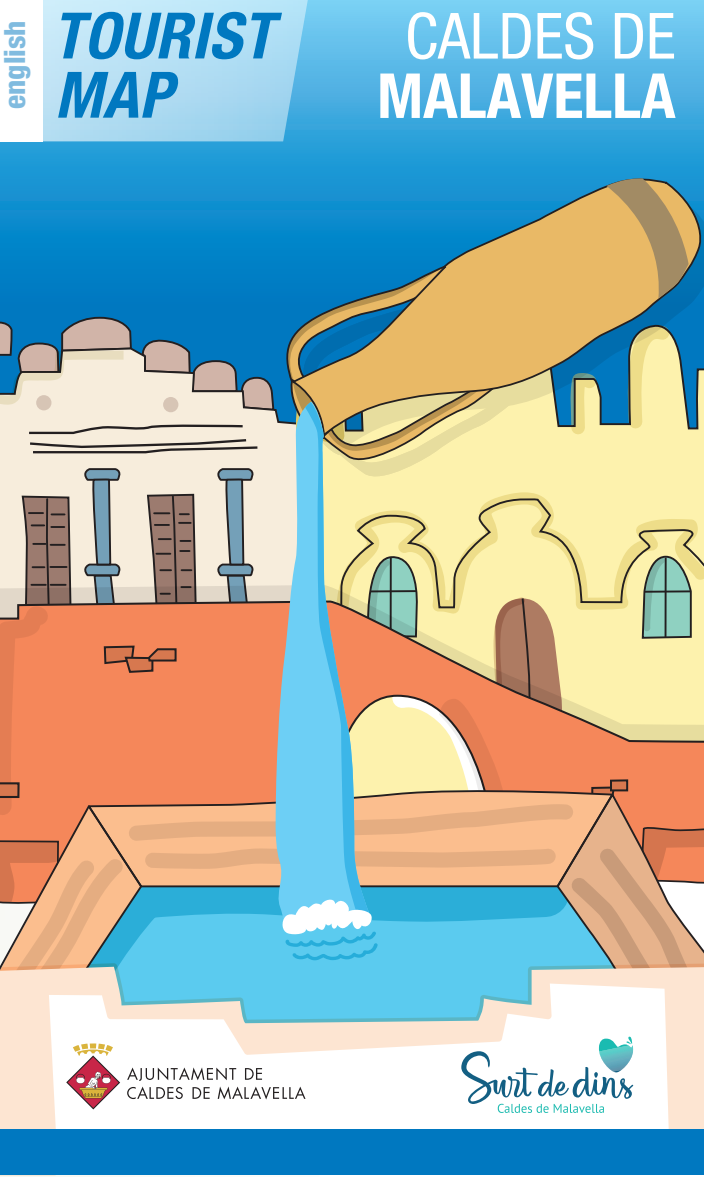
19th-20th Centuries. This spa was promoted by Dr. Modest Furest i Roca, who acquired the area of Puig de les Ànimes in 1880. He purchased it with the idea of building a bottling plant in order to build a bottling plant and a thermal centre. The first commercial name he gave to the water was “Aigua del Puig de les Ànimes”, and it fed from the fountains known as Font Gran, de la Cantera Xica and del Fetge. His water already had already been declared of ‘public utility’. In 1891, the water changed its name to Vichy Catalan, in order to evoke the benefits of the famous French thermal centre. The spa was built by the architect Gaietà Buigas i Monrabal. The spa was designed in a monumental Modernist style, with Arabic influences. It has two distinct parts, giving it a T shape. It also contains an interior patio with a fountain and a chapel dedicated to Saint Joseph and Saint Stephen, all of them built in a Modernist style.



Thermal hot water springs: 56° C

The source of thermal water is an element that has characterized the town of Caldes de Malavella for many years. The Caldes springs have a common origin, and we can put into three groups the nucleus where the fountains are to be found: the Puig de les Ànimes, the Turó de Sant Grau and the Puig de les Moleres. Caldes water gushes out at a temperature of 56-60° and is renowned for its therapeutic and medicinal properties, already discovered in Roman times. The properties of the thermal water recognized through the thermal baths led to the bottling of the water so that patients could continue the treatment in their own homes. The thermal waters of Caldes de Malavella are renowned since Roman times. The waters' healing properties are beneficial for the treatment of rheumatism, digestive and liver disorders, bone fractures and wounds; whilst helping to maintain a healthy digestive and circulatory systems and urinary tract.

- Fountain “Bullidors”
- Fountain “San Narcís”
- Fountain “Mina o Raig d'en Mel”



Telephone numbers of interest

- Tourist Office 972 480 103
- Espai Aque 600 372 610
- Town hall 972 470 005
- Local Police Office 972 470 902 - 619 704 546
- Library 972 472 350
- Health centre 972 470 109 972 463 882 (Emergency)
- Sports Area 697 493 442
- Swimming Pool 697 493 442
- Pharmacy M. Casanovas 972 470 096
- Pharmacy Xénia Planas 972 472 11 10
- Pharmacy Felch 972 472 794
- Motorhome sanitation area
- Gas Station
- Fountain
- Bike Path
- Train Info 900 410 041
- BUS (Sarria) 972 300 623
- BUS (Teisa) 972 204 868
- TAXIS (Baillu) 972 470 937 - 606 390 599
- Playgrounds
- Skate parc
- Supermarket
- Notable building
- Information kiosk
- Salut Respon - 061
- Emergency phone - 112

Restaurants

- Balneari Prats Restaurant - Plaça Sant Esteve, 7 - 972 470 051
- Restaurant Ca la Manella - C/ Prim, 3 - 972 470 019
- Cafeteria Restaurant Riera - C/ Santa Maria, 30 - 972 470 079
- Restaurant Can Quim - Avda. Catalunya, 35 - 972 470 213
- Delicis Restaurant - Avda. Dr. Furest, 32 - 972 470 000
- Pizzeria El Dueto - Plaça Amical Mauthausen, 3 - 972 472 890
- Hostal Esteba Restaurant - C/ Francesc Macià, 2 - 972 470 055
- Restaurant Mas Oller - Veïnat de les Mates, 1 - 972 470 257
- Restaurant Francisc - Ctra.N-II, km 703, Francisc - 972 472 211
- The Club Café - Clubhouse, PGA Catalunya Resort Ctra. N-II, Km 701 - 972 472 249
- Loung&Bar - Hotel Camiral, Ctra. N-II, Km 701 - 972 181 020
- Restaurant 1477 - Hotel Camiral, Ctra. N-II, Km 701 - 972 181 020
- Restaurant Llac del Cigne - Avda. Catalunya s/n, Urb. Llac del cigne - 872 720 050

Bars

- Bar Casa Rosa - C/ Sant Grau, 19 - 972 470 082
- Bar Grill Trebol - Ctra. Llagostera, 156 - 686 839 146
- Bar Nou Joker - Avinguda Sant Maurici, 8 - 972 470 044
- Gata Mula Vermuteria - Carrer Major, 39 - 686 166 382
- Kebab de la Casa - Carrer Tramalluara, 16 - 972 985 709
- La Granja de Caldes - C/ Nou, 56 - 972 480 133
- Can Floris - Carrer Llibertat, 1 - 872 023 639
- Pub Tèrmic - Plaça Ajuntament, 5 baixos - 972 472 442
- Thermal Café - Plaça Ajuntament, 5 baixos - 972 470 791
- L'Art del Crep - Plaça Sant Esteve, 3 - 667 933 869
- Black Coffee - Carrer Sant Sebastià, 30-41 - 972 666 254
- Tiki Tapa - Carrer Vall Llobrega, 40 - 972 686 161
- Pool Bar - Hotel Camiral, Ctra. N-II, Km 701 - 972 181 020

To take away

- Pizzeria Piazzeta - Plaça la Selva, 202 - 618 035 621
- Sushi Nam - Ctra. Llagostera, 68 - 972 078 674
- Superpallastre - Avinguda Sant Maurici, 3 - 633 333 946
- Food Caldes - C/ Sant Sebastià, 41 Local 5 - 972 439 026

Hotels and small hotels

- Balneari Prats - Plaça Sant Esteve, 7 - 972 470 051
- Balneari Vichy Catalan - Avda. Dr. Furest, 32 - 972 470 000
- Hostal Esteba - C/ Francesc Macià, 2 - 972 470 055
- Hostal Fabrellas - C/ Major, 14 - 972 470 046
- Hotel Camiral - Ctra. N-II, Km 701 - 972 181 020
- Lavida Hotel - Ctra. N-II, Km 701 - 972 472 249

Rural B&B

- El Ranxo Bed&Breakfast - Veïnat de Francisc, s/n - 693 930 920
- Masia Can Costa Rural - Veïnat de Baix, 31 - 660 032 486
- Can Salom Turisme Rural - Veïnat de Baix, 8 - 615 618 170
- Mar Teïdior - Veïnat d'Irrel, 26 - 646 223 388

Golf courses

- PGA Golf de Catalunya - Ctra. A-2, Km 701 - 972 472 577
- Pick&Putt Francisc - Ctra. A-2, Km 703 - 972 471 028

