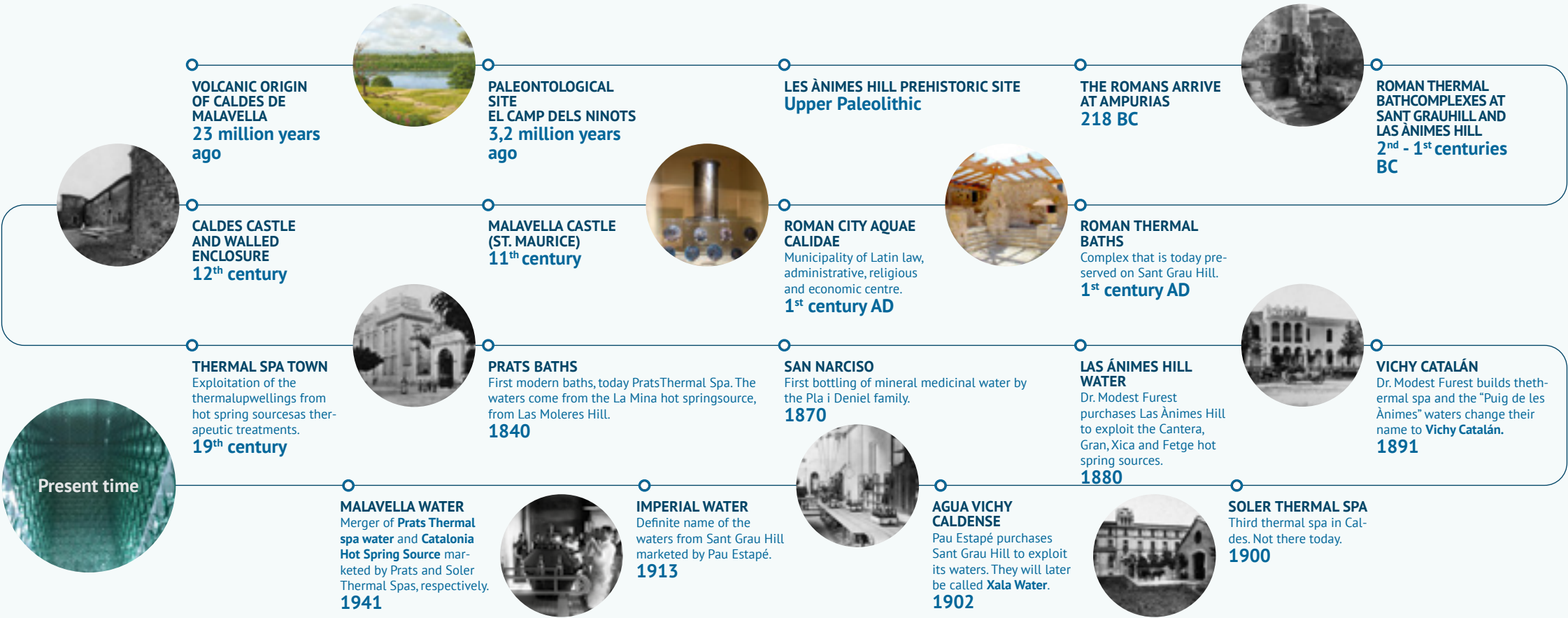


The historical significance of the water at Caldes



Caldes de Malavella, spa town:
The unique thermal springs at Caldes have been shaping life in the town since ancient times. Its streets, squares and gardens overflow with the heritage of a historical legacy forged through the close link between the waters and the townsfolk: the Roman Baths, the Spas, the modernist houses, the promenades... Today, the thermal water at Caldes de Malavella reaches the surface at an average temperature of 56°C-60°C in three places:

- **At Puig de les Ànimes**, within the grounds of the Vichy Catalán spa and bottling plant
- **At Puig de Sant Grau**, where you can find the Sant Narcís and Bullidors springs, the Roman Baths, and the San Narciso and Imperial bottling plants
- **At Puig de Sant Grau**, where you can find the La Mina or the *Raig d'en Mel* springs as well as the Malavella bottling plant

The renowned properties of the thermal water at the baths gave rise to a bottling industry in response to a demand from patients who wanted to continue their treatment at home. The first bottling plants marked the beginning of the industrial usage of the water, which had different promoters and soon became the driving economic force of the town.

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AJUNTAMENT DE CALDES DE MALAVELLA

Caldes de Malavella

Caldes waters

FEATURES,
THERMAL WATER SOURCES AND SPAS

AJUNTAMENT DE CALDES DE MALAVELLA

Caldes de Malavella

THE WATER'S PROPERTIES



Caldes' thermal water originates from rainwater that filters through faults and fractures in the subsoil to travel deep underground. When the water reaches a depth of around one thousand metres, it heats up, changes its chemical composition, acquires carbon dioxide and rises to the surface. The entire process takes between 30 to 50 years. During that time, the water absorbs the minerals held in the granite rocks of the subsoil. The high temperatures deep underground heat the water until it reaches 90 - 130 °C; this then causes it to rise quickly to the surface without losing its mineral properties. Its mineral composition is: Bicarbonate sodium, alkaline, lithium and fluorine.

It also contains silicon, lithium, aluminium, calcium, potassium and manganese.

The water at Caldes de Malavella has curative properties suitable for the treatment of rheumatic diseases, dyspepsia, hepatitis, fractures and wounds. It's also recommended for the management of digestive, urinary and circulatory disorders.

It stimulates gastric secretion and promotes the action of pancreatic enzymes in the intestine and the emulsifying power of bile. Furthermore, it has been proven effective in the treatment of nutritional disorders (gout, uric lithiasis, obesity, diabetes and certain types of rheumatism).

THERMAL TREATMENTS

The spas offer hydrothermal therapies (swimming pools, saunas, inhalations, pressure showers, horizontal showers, *Vittel* massage), as well as mud and paraffin wraps, massages, lymphatic drainages, slimming and firming treatments, and other health and beauty therapies.

BALNEARI PRATS

Balneari Prats was originally a small spa founded by the Prats family to take advantage of the Font de la Mina spring. During the second half of the 19th Century, the growing popularity of summering in Caldes gave rise to the construction of its current building in the centre of town. The somewhat eclectic new building, which combines architectural styles from several different eras, was further extended in 1912. Architect Eusebi Bona i Puig was commissioned for the project.

The new Hotel Balneari Prats was renovated in 2009, but the annexe housing its thermal centre still retains its original charm. Stay in any of its rooms, stroll through its extensive gardens, relax on the café's comfortable terrace, enjoy healthy food in the restaurant and bathe in the 34°C open-air swimming pool, are some of the moments you will enjoy during your stay at Balneari Prats.

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BALNEARI VICHY

Balneari Vichy Catalan was founded by Dr. Modest Furest i Roca, who bought the land containing Puig de les Ànimes in 1880. He bought the land intending to exploit the hot springs located there by constructing a bottling plant and on-site baths. Water from the Gran, de la Cantera, Xica and del Fetge springs was initially marketed under the name "Agua del Puig de las Ánimas", and officially declared to be "of public use". In 1891, the water was renamed "Vichy Catalan", in reference to the recognised medicinal waters of the French spa town. In that same year, Dr. Furest completed his project with the construction of a spa designed by Gaietà Buigas i Monrabà.

In addition to its accommodation and spa facilities, Balneari Vichy Catalan offers guests a relaxing environment in which to rest and recuperate. Imbued with modernist charm, the hotel offers extensive gardens and communal spaces brimming with history, such as the lounge-cafeteria, the terrace, the chapel, the inner garden, the events room, and the outdoor swimming pool. In short, a rewarding and therapeutic experience in the beautiful surroundings of inland Costa Brava.

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THERMAL SPRINGS

FONT DE LA MINA

Thermal spring also known by the name *Raig d'en Mel*. It was discovered during the construction of a quarry to drain marshland. During the 1840s, its hot water was channelled underground to bathhouses which later became the Prats and Soler spas. Initially, the spring's water was bottled for consumption by Balneari Prats under the name of "Agua del Balneario Prats", and by the Balneari Soler as "Fuente Cataluña". The two businesses later merged and renamed their water "Agua Malavella". In 1985, the business was bought out by Vichy Catalan S.A.

The Font de la Mina or Raig d'en Mel flows through a metal tap mounted on a pumice wall. The hot flowing water would fill nearby laundry sinks and, throughout the region, the thermal water became renowned for lending itself perfectly to washing clothes and linens. Thus, the stream that runs in front of the spring, collecting its water, is known as the *Riera del Lleixiu* (Bleach Stream).



FONT DE SANT NARCÍS

Public spring flowing from the Turó de Sant Grau, where the water reaches the surface at 60°C. The water from the spring, also called Saint Cecilia, was traditionally used by local people who valued its restorative properties. In the mid-nineteenth century, it belonged to the Pla i Deniel family, who, in 1870, were permitted to sell it as medicinal water under the name "San Narciso". In 1890, Narcís Pla i Deniel ceded a part of the waters to the local neighbourhood, which gave rise to the Sant Narcís spring. During the 20th Century, the ownership of the spring changed hands several times.



FONT DELS BUILLIDORS

Public spring flowing from the Turó de Sant Grau, where the water reaches the surface at 56°C. Due to its location, it is believed that this was the spring that supplied the Roman baths. Locals traditionally used its water in the home; for drinking, cooking and washing. To supplement the family income, some neighbours would travel to the surrounding villages to sell the water in tubs. In the early nineteenth century, the water was channelled to a small spa known as "Els Banys Nous", but the business was unsuccessful. At the end of the 19th Century, much of the spring complex was acquired by the industrialist Pau Estapé. He reached an agreement with the local council to grant the Caldeans access to a section of the flow for their needs. In 1902, Mr. Estapé began bottling the water under the name "Vichy Caldense", which would later become "Agua Xala", and finally, in 1912 "Agua Imperial".