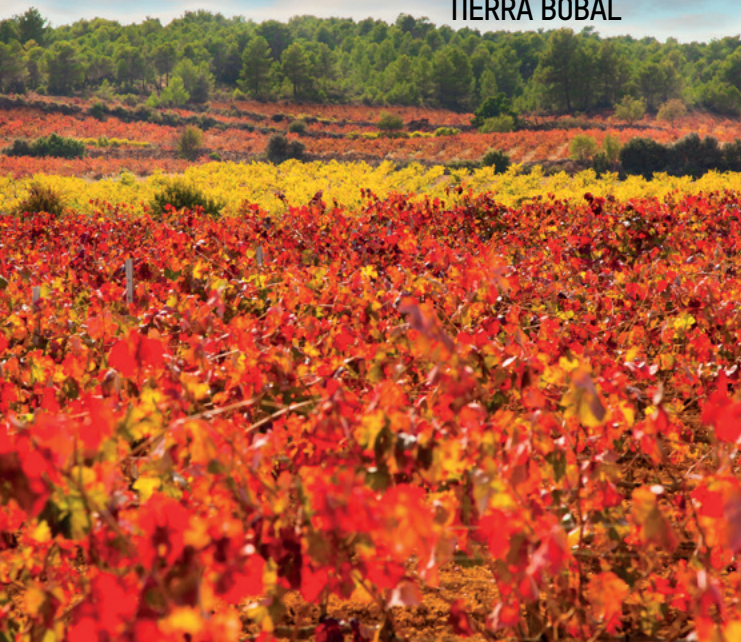


regions of the province
of Valencia

REQUENA UTIEL

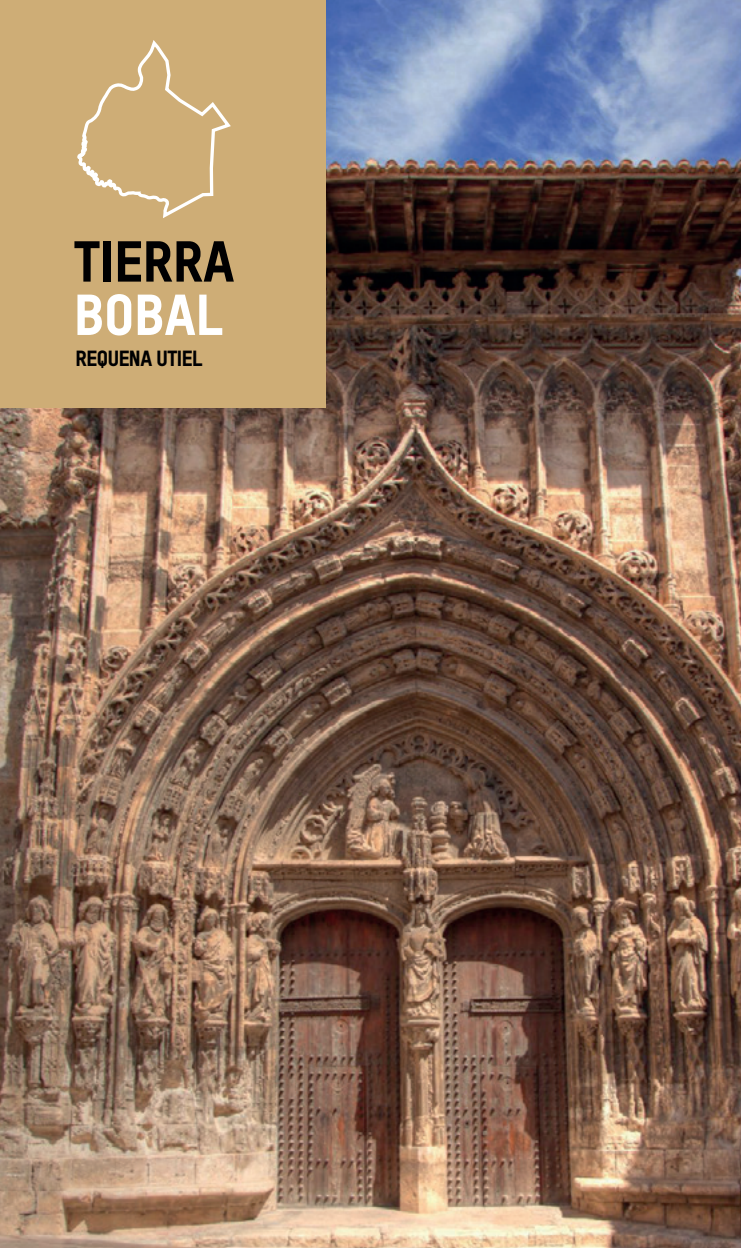
TIERRA BOBAL





TIERRA BOBAL

REQUENA UTIEL





TIERRA BOBAL_

Nine towns: Camporrobles, Caudete de las Fuentes, Chera, Fuenterrobles, Requena, Sinarcas, Utiel, Venta del Moro and Villargordo del Cabriel, and 37 villages make up the region of Requena-Utiel, the largest in the Valencia Region. A land that has the colour, bouquet and taste of wine, and which gets its name from its original native grape, the Bobal.

In the west, in the inland part of the province of Valencia, we find **Tierra Bobal**. This large plateau, with an average altitude ranging between 600m and 900m, is bound to the south by the Martés and Malacara mountain ranges, to the northwest by the Tejo and Negrete ranges (the Pico de Negrete stands at 1307m above sea level), and to the west and the south by the irregular course of the River Cabriel. Along a length of about one hundred kilometres, between the *Contreras* reservoir and the village of *Casas del Rio* (in **Requena**), it acts as a river-border separating the territories of the Valencia Region and Castilla La Mancha (provinces of Cuenca and Albacete).

If you love nature, if you enjoy a glass of wine, if you appreciate the authentic, **Tierra Bobal** offers you:

“Portada de Santa María” in Requena

WINE TOURISM_

More than 2500 years ago, the Phoenicians brought wine to the Iberian peoples, who excavated wineries like La Solana de las Pilillas, which is the oldest centre producing wine for trade in the Iberian Peninsula. For centuries, houses were built on underground wine cellars, like those you can visit in **Utiel** and **Requena**. The wine of **Tierra Bobal** is the colour of the earth on the high plain, shapes its landscape and is the way of life of the people who live there. Awarded the Denomination of Origin before most of the rest, the DOP (Protected DO) **Utiel-Requena** invites visitors to discover wines, culture and landscapes. The Utiel-Requena *Wine Route*, made up of wineries, restaurants, accommodation, museums, wine collections, active tourism companies and official bodies, is this region's product association. "El Cava de **Requena**" is a group of wineries that have accreditation to make sparkling Cava wines with the DOP Cava seal, made using the Macabeo, Chardonnay, Garnacha and Pinot Noir grape varieties. A broad range of experiences related to a millenary wine culture that today offers innovation, quality and international recognition from experts all over the world.



“Ermita del Remedio”
in Utiel



Rafting in Cabriel
River

NATURE AND ACTIVE TOURISM_

25 protected natural spaces, a living reserve that stretches from the *Sierra Negrete* mountains to the River Cabriel, a plain formed between the mountain and the river. The largest concentration of forests in the Valencia Region. The only Geological Park in the Valencia Region in **Chera**, ancient mountains in an incredible landscape of pine trees. The stunning beauty of the gorges in the *Hoces del Cabriel* Nature Park, an area of very important ecological and landscape value, and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2019.

The diversity of the ecosystems in **Tierra Bobal** offers sightings of birds of prey, woodland, scrubland and water birds: wheatears, eagles, griffon vultures, woodpeckers, chaffinches, goldfinch, partridges, pigeons, larks, nightingales and even ducks and herons. The hills and wetlands of Sinarcas and the *Hoces de Cabriel* Nature Park are excellent places for birdwatching, especially in spring and autumn. At night, you can hear barn owls, eagle owls and the little owl.

Hundreds of kilometres of paths weaving between hills and

vineyards, rugged tracks for mountain bikes and the River Cabriel offering a chance for adventure. 78 natural spaces. More than seventy paths cross **Tierra Bobal**, and a major route, the GR-238, is its backbone. Routes running through plains and hills that are home to mountain goats, genets and foxes, and which in autumn offer up delicious wild mushrooms for walkers to collect. Paths that climb mountains, that weave between vines and almond trees, connecting lagoons with trenches, salt lakes with fossils, castles with the meanders of the river. Paths to take as a family, paths for expert walkers and paths which, over a number of days, cover the whole region. Steep tracks and winding roads for cyclists. The River *Cabriel* is ideal for a first try at rafting: a quiet river in idyllic surroundings, flowing through narrow canyons. Venta del Moro is the starting point for trips out onto the river, on a raft, in a kayak, on a paddle board or with a rubber ring. From **Villargordo del Cabriel** a road leads to the *Contreras* reservoir, a good spot for paddle boarding. In **Chera**, you can spend the day at the *Buseo* reservoir. Experiences in nature for nature-lovers who respect it and protect it as they enjoy it.

CULTURE_

A culture of major monuments, customs and festivals. Stones and silk, walls and castles, and also tunnels and caves. A



“Los Cuchillos de Contreras”
Villargordo del Cabriel



Homage Tower in Requena (La Villa district)

culture of districts and towns that are historical and artistic sites. Here we can see the imprints left by Iberians, Romans and Muslims. You will discover attractive beauty spots, shrines, baroque, neoclassical and Gothic churches, like the churches of *El Salvador* and *Santa María* in **Requena**, whose facades are national monuments. Old wineries that remind us that wine has always been here, and also mills, factories, presses and looms. A legacy of large and small things, a legacy that you can feel and not always touch. You can go on a pilgrimage (*romería*), light bonfires for *San Antón*, sing at the *Mayos* festivals and feel the ever-present music bands.

The first settlers arrived in these lands way back in Prehistory. Throughout the territory you can find vestiges of Iberian, Roman, Muslim and Christian times, peoples who built settlements, castles, walled cities, farmhouses, churches, mosques, bridges, tunnels, towers, farmyards and factories. From the Iberian period you will find El Molón, in **Camporrobles**, with one of Spain's best preserved defensive walls; Kelin, in

Caudete de las Fuentes, a magnificent city that was abandoned after the Roman conquest; and *Solana de las Pilillas*, the site of the wineries that make up the oldest wine production centre in the Iberian Peninsula.

The traditions belong to life in the countryside. The grape harvest marks the cycles. **Requena's** Grape Harvest Festival at the end of August, declared of National Tourist Interest, followed by the Fair in **Utiel**, which starts on the first weekend in September with the *Virgen del Remedio* brought down from her shrine, are festivals deep-rooted in time. The towns and villages celebrate their patron saint festivals and the popular summer festivals. Residents light bonfires for *San Antón* in winter, and *San Isidro*, the patron saint of farmers, is celebrated in May. Preserved traditions, like *los Quintos* (a celebration of youth) and festivals of song like *el canto de los Mayos* and *las mozas*, and songs sung to the Virgin Mary, in the early hours of the morning on 1 May in **Camporrobles, Chera, Venta del Moro and the villages of Jaraguas, Hortunas, Los Duques and Las Casas**. *La Candelaria* is a festival held in Fuenterrobles in February, and the second Sunday in May sees the pilgrimage to the Holy Cave (*Cueva Santa*), a traditional pilgrimage for towns and villages in this part of the River Cabriel.

There is a cultural legacy of artistic creation in museums and private collections throughout **Tierra Bobal**. Old castles, convents, palaces and factories that nowadays have a new life devoted

A photograph of an underground cellar in Utiel. The scene is dimly lit with warm, golden light emanating from a large, arched opening in the background. In the foreground, several large, earthenware wine jugs (fiascos) are arranged on a wooden floor. The walls are made of rough, natural rock, and the overall atmosphere is one of traditional, aged wine storage.

Underground Cellars
Utiel




“Torta de magras y sardina”

to archaeology, the silk industry, contemporary art, wine and photography. In Sisternas (**Requena**), in **Fuenterrobles** or in **Sinarcas** you will find collections of furniture, personal effects, tools, ornaments, clothing and implements donated by the towns' residents to keep their memory alive.

GASTRONOMY_

Traditional cuisine in **Tierra Bobal** is Castilian at heart. It is full of flavour, hearty and also surprising, making use of everything the land has to offer. The slaughter of pigs provided families with meat to eat for months, preserving their cold meats, ribs and pork loin in traditional earthenware jars (*orzas*). There is a long list of products like sausages, blood pudding, chorizo, sausages known as *el perro* and *la güeña*, and pork loin, which have led to Fairs like **Requena's** Traditional Quality Cold Meat festival, declared of regional tourist interest.

Fruit and vegetables, fresh when they are in season and preserved for the rest of the year; at home, traditional stew (*puchero*), and in the countryside grass peas, *migas* (fried breadcrumbs with pork and peppers), *ajoarriero* (fish with garlic and spices) and gazpacho, when game meat was available. Our preferences today are for cold meat and grilled lamb, and the desserts



“Telégrafo de la Jedrea” Tower
(San Antonio de Requena)
Author: J. Ramón Torres

sweetened with honey: almond-based sweets like *turroncillo* or *burrueco* and *alajú*, *bocáillo* (fried balls of breadcrumbs with lemon and cinnamon) and *arrope* (grape syrup).

This land is both savoury and sweet, salt and honey, salt lakes and beehives. We recommend that you buy fresh cold meats (the most characteristic being *la güeña*, *el perro* and the legendary blood pudding with onion) or preserved in the *orza*, which comes already packaged. If you want oven-baked products, buy *bollo* or *tortas* (baked dough) with pork or sardines. Also sweets, particularly at Christmas and, of course, honey and oil.

ASTROTOURISM_

One of **Tierra Bobal**'s many qualities is its low light pollution outside the urban centres, which allows you to enjoy incredible night skies. The spectacle is guaranteed all year round. In January, the Quadrantids; in April the Lyrids, in May the Eta Aquariids, in July the Delta Aquariids, in August the Perseids, in October the Draconids, in November the *Lota-Autíguidas* and Leonids, and the Geminids in December. Quality skies that we need to admire and protect, and which have made **Tierra Bobal** a Starlight tourist destination.

More information at: www.tierrabobal.es

TOURIST INFO_

Utiel Tourist Office

C/ Puerta Nueva, 9

Teléfono: 962 170 222/ WhatsApp: 637 838 658

turismo@utiel.es

www.utiel.es

Requena Tourist Office

C/ García Montés, 1

Teléfono: 962 303 851 / WhatsApp: 697 10 48 24

requena@touristinfo.net

www.requena.es

Hoces del Cabriel Nature Park Interpretation Centre

C/ Sindicato Agrícola, s/n (46310 – Venta del Moro)

Teléfono: 963 189 222 / Móvil: 639 202 112

hoces_cabriel@gva.es

Chera-Sot de Chera Nature Park Interpretation Centre

C/ La Fuente, 52 (46350 – Chera)

Teléfono: 961 839 610 / Móvil: 606 857 028

parque_cherasotdechera@gva.es

Chera Geological Park Interpretation Centre

C/ San Isidro Labrador, 20 (46350 – Chera)

Teléfono: 962 332 001

El Molón de Camporrobles Archaeological Park Interpretation Centre

Junto al Yacimiento de El Molón (46330 – Camporrobles)

Teléfono: 962 181 006 /Móvil: 637 593 568

turismo@camporrobles.es



Tierra Bobal

Donde el bosque abraza al viñedo



REQUENA
UTIEL_



VALÈNCIA
TURISME



- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | Nature | | Tourist Municipality |
| | Tourist Info | | Zoo |
| | Historical building | | Fishing |
| | Museum | | Nature Reserve |
| | Handicrafts | | Panoramic view |
| | Wine | | Rural Accommodation |
| | Archaeology | | Camping Area |
| | Castle / Palace | | Hotel |
| | Religious Monument | | Historical-artistic complex |
| | Mountain Sports | | Waterwheel |
| | Hostel | | Water sports |
| | Bull Ring | | |





València Turisme

Calle Avellanas, 14 2º H

46003 VALÈNCIA

Tel.: 963887221

valenciaturisme@dival.es

www.valenciaturisme.org

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