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Cante de las Minas Festival

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Festivity of International Tourist Interest

Dates

Aug 5, 2015 to Aug 15, 2015

Unión, La

Murcia

Website

<http://www.fundacioncantedelasminas.or>


Flamenco performance during the Cante de las Minas Festival. La Unión © Turespaña

La Unión in Murcia hosts the most important flamenco event in the world: the Cante de las Minas Festival. Flamenco singing, dancing and guitar are the three categories in an event that is steeped in genuine flamenco feeling and which showcases young talent in addition to featuring established stars of the genre.

The old public market in La Unión is the site of this major festival which represents the flamenco heritage bequeathed by the mining industry in this area of Murcia. Flamenco is the absolute star of the event, which –since its creation in 1961– has promoted the musical genre in all its most classical and contemporary and avant-garde incarnations. The presentation of and search for new artists is another of the event's characteristics. It has also succeeded in recovering a unique style of flamenco song and music which has had its roots in La Unión for 150 years, and which, just 50 years ago, was on the verge of disappearing for good. It is for this work that the festival has been distinguished with the Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts.

The festival includes three final competitions, with the participation of young artists who have passed the qualifying stages over the course of several months. The longest-running section is for song, which also has the most resonance and prestige with the audience and singers, who compete for the first prize of the 'Miner's Lamp'. The second competition is 'el toque' –for guitar playing. The first prize here is the 'Bordón Minero' trophy. These two disciplines are held simultaneously. The dance competition is the most recent addition, completing the three facets of flamenco expression. The festival programme culminates with gala events featuring performances by some of the biggest names in this musical genre.

What's more over the course of the festival there are other parallel activities such as exhibitions, wine tastings, projections, flamenco soirées, literary presentations, poetry recitals, courses (guitar playing, dance and percussion) for all different levels, and talks. Admission to all the festival's parallel activities –including the flamenco recitals– is free but availability is limited. If you want to attend the gala performances or the final phases of the competition, there are various ways to purchase your tickets: either at the theatre box office on the day of the show, at the tourist office in La Unión, or online for advance purchases.

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La Unión

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