



FALLAS GLOSSARY for tourists

LA CRIDA



"La crida" is one of the first acts of fallas, it's celebrated in the afternoon and all the people come, both falleros and those who are not. While "Las falleras mayores" (the biggest falleras) of the city go up to the town hall, a show is usually made like live music or acrobats, then they name all the fallas and finally the older falleras announce that we are already in fallas!!

FALLERAS & FALLEROS

the "falleras" are the protagonists of the "fallas", as they are very important in them. There is always an older "fallera" and a child "fallera", the older "fallera" and the child of Valencia are in charge of starting all the "**mascletadas**" and parties. The typical costumes with which the "falleras" dress are very beautiful, with many flowers and details, there are two types: the "fallera" costume that is used for the most important events, and the "huertana" that is usually used in the mornings. In addition, the hairstyles are also very beautiful, and are decorated with combs and in some cases with flowers.

The falleras are presented in the "Presentation", where, accompanied by their **fallero**, they appear before the older "falleras" and these place their band on it, to present it in front of all the falla.

Next, I leave you a photo of the "fallera" dress that I used when I was 5 years old, and another of my "huertana" dress. The red one it is the typical dress of "fallera", and blue it is the typical dress of "huertana"



LA CREMÀ

La Cremà is the final act and the closing ceremony of the Fallas festivity. This consists of burning (the literal translation of Cremà) the falla monuments, made of cardboard and wood. Each association or "falla" do this tradition on the night of Saint Joseph's Day, 19th of March.

This act originated during the early 19th century, when carpenters burnt old wood furnitures and tools, creating big bonfires. They burnt them on the 19th March because Saint Joseph was the carpenters' Saint.

The tradition evolved until it became the spectacular Falla monuments. Nowadays, all little fallas are burnt between 21:00 and 22:00, burning the winner falla the last one, and big fallas are burnt between 22:30 and 01:00. The burning show begins with beautiful fireworks, and then, all falleros see their falla monument disappear and turn to ashes. Some people don't understand why we burn these precious artworks, but as the tradition says, you have to burn the old things to make way to new things.

Here are some photos of the Cremà and the traditional bonfire, and also clicking this link you can watch a Cremà from Alzira this last year: <https://youtu.be/RpPz70aZdAg>



ELS BUNYOLS I LA CASSALLA

Heey! Fallas are a very important event for Valencians, so much so that we wait a whole year to enjoy them. So I'm going to talk about two traditional things consumed during fallas, "la cassalla" and "els bunyols".

First, "la cassalla" is a traditional alcoholic drink from Valencia, although it was created in another part of Spain (Seville). It is obtained through the distillation of anise and it usually has between 40 and 45 degrees of alcohol. It can be drunk in many ways, although the most common are to drink it with cold water or in a shot glass.

On the other hand, "els bunyols" is a traditional Valencian sweet food, it is usually eaten during fallas period. They are made with a dough of flour, water, milk, egg or yeast and they also have pumpkin. The dough is molded into a circular shape and then it is fried. In addition, it can be eaten alone or with sugar on top. It's delicious!



EI LLIBRET

This VALENCIAN word means the little book. And it's exactly that, a book related to each falla and whose content is about a different topic each year. Some fallas spend more effort and money in doing "llibrets" than others, but all fallas have one each year.

There are two kinds of it: small size and big size. In these books falleras and falleros write their texts, most of them in a funny and creative way, and they also invite famous and non-famous people to participate in writing texts, poems, drawing, ... anything related to culture is accepted.

The first prizes in las fallas are given to the Ninot Indultat and "el llibret". And not only in the city, Alzira, but there is also a prize which is given by the Generalitat. This year my Falla has won second prize in the Generalitat and first prize in our city, Alzira.

Here I'm posting 3 pictures: two of them are the first prizes in our city, for the big size and small size of "llibret". And the third one is our llibret, first prize in Alzira. There are QRcodes in the pictures so you can enter and have a look at the books in a digital way. I hope you like it.



EL MONUMENT FALLER

We can find the start of this tradition many years ago, when the workers of factories had to get rid of all the trash they had produced. The best time to do it was in March. With the years, this tradition developed into the fallas we have nowadays. They are mainly made from cork and metal (when at the start they were made from wood).

Every falla has their own. There are two monuments per falla: a big one and a small one (kids' monument). In our city there are 35 commissions. Imagine how many monuments there are, 70 in total! It's amazing to see all of them, they are awesome.

There are sections for the monuments depending on the economic level of the falla, in total there are 5 sections. The first day of the fallas there are awards for the monuments. You can feel the tension while watching them!

The monuments are in our streets for 3 days, and on March 19th we burn them. This represents the end of the "any faller" (fallas' year).



ELS NINOTS

A falla or fallas monument is an artistic and a huge work , with figures called **NINOTS** , that are planted in the streets during the valencian festival of las fallas.

The monument usually has a topic and is full of posters with verses, phrases and humorous claims. The themes of the fallas have changed during history.

At first they served to criticize events that happened in their neighborhoods. Afterwards, they began to criticize characters of local relevance. Since the transition the fallas have touched global issues and end up criticizing local, regional and global issues about society and politics. Moreover, there are topics like television and celebrities.

The monument is made of combustible materials so that, after a few days of exposure in the streets, it can be completely burned.



L'OFRENA

The main days of Fallas are the 17th, 18th and 19th of March, and "L'Ofrena " takes place on the 18th. It is a religious act which consists of going through the streets with our traditional clothes and with a branch of flowers following a route 'til we arrive where "La Verge del Lluch" (our virgin) is and we offer her the flowers.

It started long ago in early 1941, after the Civil Spanish War. A group of Clavaries gave flowers to the Virgin wearing their traditional dresses and covered with shawls. They called it "Fiesta de la Clavariesa" and they did it to show gratitude to their Patron saint. The tradition remained on these dates and a lot more people started following it.



LA DESPERTÀ

"La desperta" it's one of the first traditions of Falles: The "falleros and falleras" Wake up early in the morning to throw fireworks on the street to make people wake up and see their fallas. They throw fireworks between 8:00 am up to one specific hour (sometimes lasts one hour or two) and they do this with their respective fallas. For the people that don't want to see the fallas and they aren't "falleros" they have to resist the loudness of the noise on the streets.



EL CASAL

The casal is the center of the festive life for the falleros and the place where they meet, and where throughout the year lunches, dinners, the election for the Board and the Falleras Mayores and Infantiles one is held. It will be the point of departure and arrival of most of the events of the festival. They used to be located in small ground floors or rental flats, but as of this date, they are mainly located in more spacious owned ground floors. The interior is quite simple, with a small bar counter and an office that works as an archive. They often use photos, the fallas award banners, sketches of old fallas and even a ninot that was salvaged from the flames in the "cremà".



Tents have also become a staple of modern day fallas, and even though they are often criticized for the large amounts of space they occupy, which may slow down traffic during this period of the year, they are the place where mass activities of the commission take place and are in my opinion one of the most important places, after the casales and actual fallas, for the falleros.



LA MASCLETÀ

The mascleta is one of the most popular events on fallas, consisting of preparing lots of firecrackers and exploiting them on a type of order, this order creates a type of beautiful symphony. The mascleta is prepared by a person called pyrotechnic. At the end of fallas the best mascleta receives a prize. The mascleta is always at two pm on the same place.



LA NIT DEL FOC

"La Nit del Foc" (the night of fire). This event takes place in the night between the 18th and 19th of March, before the "Cremà". It is the biggest firework show of the Fallas, and it attracts thousands of people every year. It consists of a castle of fireworks in which different types of effects can be seen, such as shells, candles, sequins, very powerful kamuros as well as blind openings or spherical exhibition housings. The public will be able to enjoy a large number of visual and sound effects, sets of turn signals, differentiated phases of balloons and parachutes, double-climb wheels and sets of lightning that will illuminate the sky with more than 30 colors. The goal of a great pyrotechnic on a night like this is to surprise the audience with a magical night.



BANDA & XARANGAS

In fallas music is very important and the main manifestation of music in fallas are the "xarangas".

The xarangas are a group of approximately 18 friends joined by the music and the fallas party. The xarangas are formed by wind instruments and percussion. Also, some charangas carry a mobile drumset with percussion instruments. The type of music that they play is traditional music but also modern music.

Since I was a child I have always seen the xarangas from the outside. My parents are musicians and they play with their friends so this year I have had the chance to play with them and with my uncle. I had a great time, I will never forget it!



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CAVALCADA MULTICOLOR

It's a very fun act!!! It consists of a parade of all the falleros commissions disguised and with floats that use satire on some subject of the present time. This event takes place the weekend before the fallas' week. It is a contest, so a jury values all the costumes and chooses the scores and with it the winners.



PASSACARRER is a typical event on fallas where the falleros parade around all the town aided by music of their "banda" to announce any event, for example every morning of fallas many falleros wake up because of the "pasacarrer de la despertà", that ,as its name indicates in Valencian language , it's time to wake up. In this specific "pasacarrer" falleros explode firecrackers while they're walking through the street. Between the music and the firecaqrckers , surely all the people that continue sleeping eventually wake up.

In the pasacarrer, all those who participate as falleros wear their respective costumes, while the musicians wear their musician uniforms. Another aspect that can be mentioned, is that the pasacarrer is a parade, and therefore the falleros are ordered and have a specific place to position themselves. Someone very important in the parade is the person who is positioned at the beginning of the entire parade, he is holding a flag. That flag will bear the logo of the falla to which the falleros belong, so that people who see them on the street will know who they are.

The people who find them on the street, if they have time, follow them and many times if you say hello to a fallero who parades, he will return your greeting.

Finally, the music that sounds is popular fallera music that everyone who lives in Valencia knows, because since all Valencians are children they have been able to listen to these songs passively, therefore when they hear the music they



