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**GUIDED TOURS
TO INCA'S HERITAGE**



Ajuntament d'Inca





Visit to the 'possessions' (rural estates) of Inca: Son Vivot and Son Sastre

Speaker: Pere Rayó Bennàssar, historian.

Son Vivot des puig d'Inca³⁸

Son Vivot, one of Mallorca's most emblematic possessions, or rural estates, lies at the foot of the mount of Santa Magdalena, beside the old Artà to Lluç path. In its heyday, it was owned by the Sureda family. Until the 17th century, it was known as Son Suau. It was during this century that Son Vivot took shape as the nucleus of a stately ensemble of properties, which included several outhouses and watermills. In the 19th century, the most important crops were olive and grapes, and it also had a large extension of almond trees.

The houses of the possessió are organised around the clastra (inner courtyard). The main façade, which has two floors and a porch, has an outer doorway in the centre, covered by a round arch with large sandstone voussoirs. Above it the date 1672 is inscribed, along with the coat of arms of the Sureda family. On the right side of the façade we find a defence tower with battlements and below is the wine cellar, a space that confirms the importance the cultivation of vines. The eastern façade maintains the configuration of two storeys and a porch, but the more recently-constructed terrace is supported by a portico formed by quadrangular pillars and basket-handle arches.

Entering via the outer doorway, on the right we see the chapel. The oratory has a rectangular floor plan, and is covered with a groin vault.



The clastra, which opens up at the back of the right-hand side, is cobbled. As one enters, on the left, is the house of the 'amo' or tenant farmer, and on the right, the house of the owners. The rest were rooms used for the domestic and productive activities. The tafona or oil press, which is now in ruins, formed part of these quarters. In the centre is the cistern, with a quadrangular neck, made of rough-cut stone.

On the outside, in front of the defence tower, there is a rectangular water cistern, which projects above the terrain, forming a terrace surrounded by benches. On the left of the houses, the most outstanding feature is the 'dolls' house'; and on the right, the garden. It is an orchard garden with orange trees, surrounded by a pergola formed by two rows of quadrangular pillars supporting beams resembling a vine arbour, where the vegetation climbs.

Son Sastre des puig d'Inca

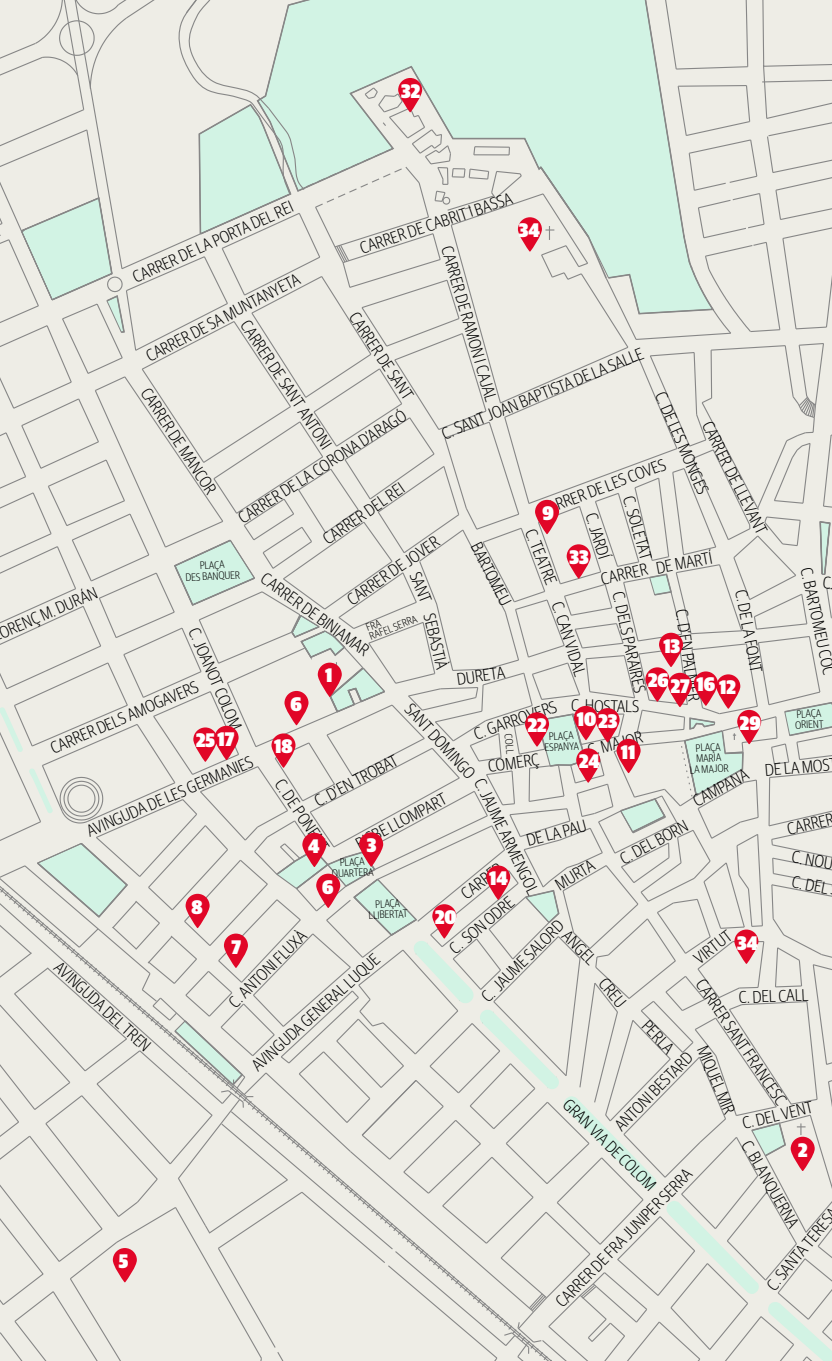
This possessió is located on the north side of the mountain of Inca. In 1562 it belonged to the Martí Sastre barony, from whose family it took its name. It belonged to the same family during the 17th century, and had houses, with a tafona (oil press) and wine cellar. It is now used for sheep farming. The fields with their carob, almond and olive trees are in a state of decline. On the left of the path leading up to the houses, in a thicket, there is a circular 'talaiot'.

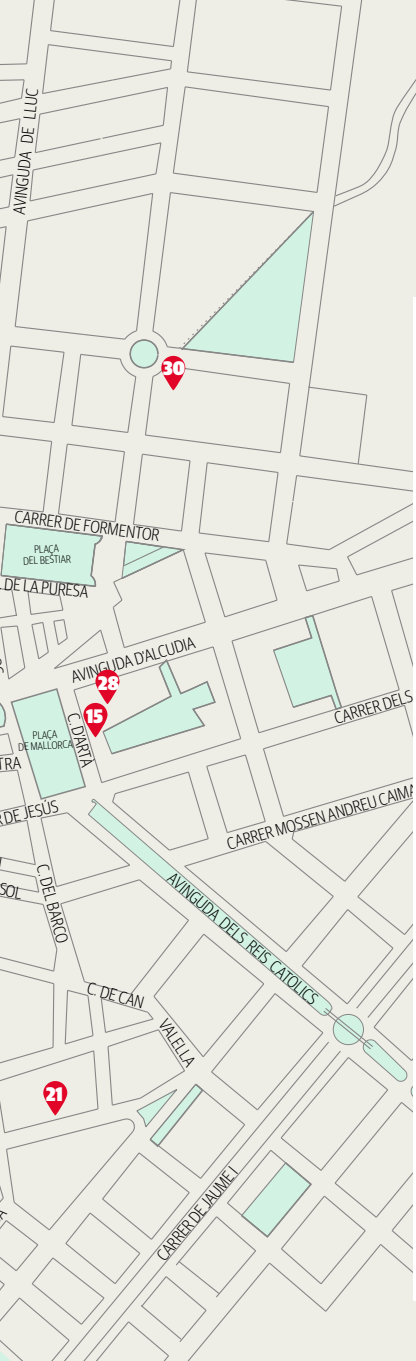


It conserves the entrance doorway which provided access to a corridor leading to the main chamber.

The posseïció houses, which are two storeys high, are small and compact. The most notable feature is in the centre of the façade, a large rounded doorway with rough-cut stone jambs and sandstone voussoirs. Above the doorway is the coat of arms of the Sastre family with a tower, a sun in the centre and an animal rampant on the right. The Baroque blazon allows us to assert that the houses were renovated during the 17th and 18th centuries. In front of the houses is the path, around which we find a cistern and other auxiliary buildings.

The inside has three gables. The floor is cobbled with small torrent stones and the ceiling is comprised of beams. The kitchen and the tafona (oil press) are interesting, demonstrating the importance of Son Sastre's olive production.





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L'EDITA:



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