



CAN COSTA

ART I CVLTVRA



Bolognese School, Muse Playing Her Lyre (17th Century)



Welcome to this refined and exclusive space, where art, culture, and history converge in an ambiance of timeless elegance. This house, the birthplace of Miquel Costa i Llobera, one of Mallorca's most revered poets, has been meticulously restored and transformed into a private cultural sanctuary. It now opens its doors solely to those who are dedicated to the appreciation of artistic brilliance and the preservation of cultural heritage.

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Minerva & the muses. Jacques De Stella (1640-45)



The Man who made it possible

Joan Mateu Bou

Joan Mateu Bou, a native of Pollença, is a lawyer and philanthropist renowned for his dedication to preserving the cultural and historical heritage of his community.

Among his most notable accomplishments is the establishment of “La Sala Gran,” as well as his steadfast commitment to maintaining the birthplace of Miquel Costa i Llobera, situated in the heart of Pollença.

Can Costa is more than a place to honor history and art; it is a dynamic institution that seamlessly blends classical heritage with contemporary innovation. By fostering a cultural atmosphere that resonates with both tradition and modernity, Can Costa enriches the local community while extending its influence to a broader audience.

Promoting Art and Culture in Mallorca:

Can Costa is dedicated to advancing art and culture while preserving classical traditions. Our mission is to harmonize the past with the present, ensuring the legacy of the poet and classical heritage is upheld, all while embracing contemporary artistic trends.

Preserving the Legacy of Miquel Costa i Llobera:

We are committed to raising awareness of the poet's life and work, ensuring his literary contributions are celebrated and appreciated by future generations.

Supporting Charity Associations:

A portion of our proceeds is donated to reputable non-profit organizations, contributing to initiatives that improve people's lives and well-being.

Exclusivity and Privacy:

Can Costa offers a private and exclusive environment, where those with a deep appreciation for culture and the arts can feel truly at home, fostering a unique sense of belonging for individuals who share these values.

From Private Residence to Exclusive Art Center in Pollença

With a profound passion for culture and history, Joan Mateu has devoted his resources to restoring and preserving this emblematic traditional residence, transforming it into a thriving cultural hub. “La Sala Gran,” once a grand hall for noble gatherings, has now evolved into a dynamic epicenter for artistic and cultural events.

Can Costa, a stately home nestled in the heart of Pollença, is steeped in history and symbolism. As the birthplace of the celebrated poet Miquel Costa i Llobera, a towering figure in Catalan literature, the house embodies the essence of traditional Mallorcan architecture. Today, it serves as a creative haven for both emerging and established artists, fostering a vibrant exchange between tradition and modernity.

The inaugural season of Can Costa in 2023 featured an acclaimed exhibition by artist Amador Magraner, drawing in both local residents and visitors from beyond Mallorca. This significant event marked the beginning of Can Costa’s journey as a leading cultural institution. Looking ahead to 2025, an exciting lineup of events is planned, including new art exhibitions, poetry readings celebrating the works of Miquel Costa i Llobera, and a series of classical music concerts that will enhance the institution’s rich cultural offerings. Through these initiatives, Can Costa reaffirms its dedication to promoting the arts and preserving Mallorca’s literary and artistic heritage.



First Exhibition at Can Costa: Featuring Artists Amador Magraner and Joan Mateu Bou, 2023



Inaugural Speech for Michael Potter Exhibition, 2024



Joan Bou, around 20 years old at the time, was the buyer of the house.

Can Costa: A Deep Connection with Formentor

Adan Diehl, an Argentine writer and poet from a prominent Buenos Aires family, relocated to Paris in the 1920s, drawn to the city's flourishing artistic community. Through his friends, including Tito Citadini and the painter Anglada Camarassa, he was introduced to the stunning beauty of Formentor in Mallorca. Captivated by the landscape, Diehl purchased parts of the peninsula with the help of local figure Joan Bou Sunyer, the grandfather of Joan Mateu Bou. Not only did Joan Bou manage Diehl's properties, but he also became a close confidant.

Together with his wife, Aina Villalonga Amengual, Joan Bou oversaw Diehl's residence in Pollença and organized transportation for guests staying at the newly established Hotel Formentor. He also acquired land in the peninsula, which remains in his family to this day, contributing to the region's history and leaving an enduring legacy through his deep influence and connections.

Miquel Costa i Llobera, a celebrated Mallorcan poet and priest, shared a profound connection with the Formentor peninsula as well. His family owned parts of the land, and its landscapes deeply inspired him, most notably in his famous poem "El Pi de Formentor." This work, a symbol of resilience and Mallorcan identity, has further established Formentor as an emblem of the island's literary and natural heritage.



Miquel Costa i Llobera by J. Tàrradellas 1954



Birth Place Home of

Miquel Costa i Llobera

Miquel Costa i Llobera (1854–1922) was a distinguished Mallorcan poet, priest, and translator, widely regarded as one of the most important figures in Catalan literature. Born into a prominent family in Pollença, Mallorca, Costa i Llobera maintained a strong connection to his native island. The stunning landscapes of Mallorca deeply influenced his work, serving as both the backdrop and inspiration for much of his poetry. Renowned for his contributions to the Romantic and Symbolist movements, his writings seamlessly blend spirituality, a deep reverence for nature, and references to the classical world.



Portrait of Miquel Costa i Llobera from 1902



1954 Painting of Miquel Costa i Llobera by Dionís Bennàssar

One of Miquel Costa i Llobera's most celebrated works, *El Pi de Formentor* (The Pine of Formentor), epitomizes his profound admiration for Mallorca's rugged landscapes, using the majesty of nature as a powerful metaphor for resilience and strength. His poetry not only captures the island's physical beauty but also delves into its deeper philosophical and spiritual meanings. Themes of transcendence, the sublime, and the fleeting nature of life run through his work, giving it a timeless and reflective quality.

Throughout his life, Costa i Llobera was widely acclaimed for his contributions to Catalan culture. His legacy is deeply woven into Mallorcan identity, with his poetry continuing to be cherished for its lyrical elegance and emotional depth. Today, he is remembered not only as one of Mallorca's greatest poets but also as a guardian of the island's cultural and literary heritage.

In addition to his poetry, Costa i Llobera was an accomplished translator, bringing classical Latin and Greek texts into Catalan and enriching the region's literary and cultural traditions. His translations of authors like Virgil and Horace elevated the Catalan language as a medium for refined literary expression. As a priest, his spiritual calling often intertwined with his literary pursuits, infusing his writings with a contemplative and meditative tone.

In 2025, the 150th anniversary of the writing of *El Pi de Formentor*, Costa i Llobera's most iconic poem, will be celebrated with special events at Can Costa, his birthplace. These commemorations will honor his enduring legacy and the profound impact of his work on Mallorcan and Catalan culture.



The Pine of Formentor

The famous poem by Miquel Costa i Llobera

*Original engraving. Die Balearen Vol. V.I. 1884. Archduke
Ludwig Salvator of Austria.*

Manacor, Mallorca, in the North of Mallorca, Spain.



Artwork: *A Pine of Formentor* by Joan Miró, 1976

The Pine of Formentor

by Miquel Costa i Llobera

I.

My heart adores a tree! Far older than the cedar,
far greener than the grass, far stronger than the oak;
it holds within its leaves the spring for ever, seeder,
and fights the coastal winds like a colossal leader,
amidst the storms awoke

II.

No floweret in love from its branches is peeping,
no streamlet did caress the shadows of this tree;
but God anointed its divine crown, overleaping
a craggy mountain range, and gave it a throne
keeping as source the deeper sea.

III.

When far over the waves the newborn sun is growing,
no song is twittered by the morning bird that grieves;
it hears the noble cry of the sea-eagle, going,
or feels the vulture's wings amid the tepests blowing
the mantle of its leaves.

IV.

The thresholds of this soil do not sustain its being;
it has its massy roots entwined among the stones.
It drinks the rainss and dews, and winds and lighth it's seeing,
and like the ancient seer, it gets its food untying
the loves that heaven owns

V.

Oh tree, sublime! It is the living sign of wonder;
o'er mountains governing, it stares th' infinity.
Althrough the earth seems harsh, its twings are caressed under
the sky that it holds dear, and has the storm and thunder
for glory and for glee.

VI.

Ah yes! When windstorms rage, so free and so uproarious,
and seems that 'midset the foams its very cliff may tear,
it laughs and then it sings much louder than the glorious
sea waves and so above the cloudiness, victorius,
it shakes its royal hair.

VII.

Dear tree, I envy you! Above the earth's soil, staining,
I'll keep your memory, just like a blessed ideal.
To fight each time and win, above the tallness reigning,
and from untained lighth and skies the nutrients gaining....
Oh life, oh noble zeal!

VII.

Oh tree, sublime! It is the living sign of wonder;
o'er mountains governing, it stares th' infinity.
Althrough the earth seems harsh, its twings are caressed under
the sky that it holds dear, and has the storm and thunder
for glory and for glee.



Clio, Euterpe y Talia. Eustache Le Sueur. 1640-1645.



A Pine of Formentor by M. Anglada Camarassa, 1923

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