

## Ancient history

The origins of a village overlooking the Mediterranean.

Finestrat has hosted many cultures throughout history. Its proximity to the coast and to the coastal roads, it has been assumed to be a magnet for settlement of the various civilizations of the Mediterranean as well as others from the central and northern Europe. All ancient civilizations have left their footprint in this growing town overlooking the sea. Thus, at every step, every corner, every street and every house you can see the legacy of their ancestors.

A municipality with 20,000 years of history.

The first signs of human settlement in what is now known as Finestrat can have some 20,000 years. They were hunter-gatherers of the Paleolithic Superior who inhabited the caves and shelters of Sierra Cortina, near the place known as Raco de les Bastides. although it has been shown, it is thought it may also have settlements of its kind in the caves and shelters of the Puig Campana.

Although no paintings have been found to confirm the presence of humans during the Neolithic, one should not forget that Finestrat is by its location, a passageway to the mountains of Alicante, where the first farmers had to enter that came to this land.

From what I know is aware of settlements is the Bronze Age on the slopes Puig Campana southern and other nearby hills, which would allow use of water resources for hunting in the area and the cultivation of cereal. Finestrat was the ideal place for the location of villages, since the hills were making an high visibility of the surroundings.

Iberians and Romans, two cultures that left their mark in Finestrat.

The Iberians formed one of the most advanced cultures of ancient Mediterranean.

They knew the writing was established in organized territories and political structure minted coins as payment. This culture lasted from the sixth century until I a.

C., at the time the process of Romanization. In finestrat have located the remains of this culture in the grounds of the Castle, in the Tossal of them Bastides and Tossal of the creek.

The oldest deposits, around the fourth century BC found in inland, while that of the Cala Tossal dating from the II and I a. C. This place is still can see remnants of houses in the village dug decades ago.

Along the Iberian village of La Cala has found another, of Roman origin on the time of High empire. In this settlement, located in the ARENA, a factory was built dedicated to salted fish.

Apart from this town today there are three known Roman villas near the town of Finestrat, whose inhabitants were engaged in the production of wine, oil and cereals.

Between

remains of these villages have found mosaics showing continual cultural arts and the arrival of the Romans meant for the area.

Medieval Times.

Like the rest of the province, Finestrat spent the splendor of Arabic culture to conquer Christian. Roman decadence coincided with the splendor of Islamic culture. No no news of the period from fourth to ninth centuries AD C. From this date find the first archaeological remains. Names such as the Alhambra, or Alamssil Alfanelles give proof of the Arab influence in the area.

Thanks to the writings of an Arab traveler of the beginning of the secular XIII is no evidence of

existence of a palace in Finestrat, recounting in their text. Is the reference document

oldest of the current name of the town.

It is precisely the time that we have more news, and therefore knows the location of Castillo named in several texts of the thirteenth century, 'Hins' which was conquered by the Almohad

Jaime I, and the epicenter of the recent riots in Al - Arrak, so it was ordered demolished.

In 1280, Pedro III, son of James I, granted to Finestrat Town Charter. Of 1336 know the existence of a church located in the grounds of Castell. with a single priest who celebrated Mass on Sunday.

From these dates Finestrat and its inhabitants are subject to inheritance and swaps noble family of the time. In 1513 passed into the possession of Juan Coloma, Earl Elda, and in 1612, and as a barony is part of the possessions of Fernando Pujades Borja, count of Anna.

The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

The Castle, which was demolished a few years later and re-raise, was standing up mid-eighteenth century, as we have heard from a resident of La Vila who was imprisoned in

Castle dungeons Finestrat at this time.

Around the sixteenth and seventeenth news of the existence of a tower in near La Cala. These fortified enclosures relate to the looting caused by pirates who came to the coast and are the origin of the holiday Moors and Christians. The inhabitants of nearby villages down to the coast defend, and hence Finestrat claim a piece of shoreline, compensation that helped to protect it.

At present, she consecrated the Church of Sant Bartolomé, built as he relates his factory order, outside the town. With the construction of the temple occurs first extension of the village to the west, with the creation of Carrer Major and their union to

Hostel Carrer, thereby defining two spaces on this date that no doubt left mark on the urban landscape.

So, the streets around the Castle to the carrer Nou. Village square, square Turret and Carrer de la Penya, under the first group home located on the slope North of the hill where stood the Castle and developed from medieval times to modern. A second ring of urban expansion corresponds to the area Hostal defined by Carrer Major, Carrer Forn Alt, Carrer Butcher, Carrer de la Olla and Carrer Sant

Bertomeu to the Mirador. Quite possibly this kernel expansion occurred from the XVII - XVIII, although there may be earlier in the underground remnants of some housing. The rest of the village to the carrer of Hort and had Carrer Puig Campana constructed from the XVIII - XIX, as evidenced by the fact that the parallel street al Carrer Carrer Major is demnomina Darrera Case, and at Carrer del Hort would be the way

that led to the garden. The latest urban expansion, and in the twentieth century in the area

north of the village, have set the modern town.

By 1797 the town was visited by Don Antonio Joseph Cavanilles, who in his work 'Notes on Natural History, Geography, Agriculture, Population and Fruit of the Kingdom

Valencia 'highlights the manufacture of esparto a population of 476 souls.

Later, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was important the gypsum industry. No

forget that the town sits on a hill gypsum, and its slope still remains of kilns are dedicated to this industry.

Important monuments

El Castell de Finestrat

In the upper town area is the area called Castell, fortified period

Almohad that appears in many documents dating from the thirteenth century, and conquered by

Jaime I. Currently you can not see buildings that may relate to

Islamic Castle, as it has undergone several transformations over the centuries. No

However, the castle ruins remain underground, and what is preserved is the

visibility defensive position: a viewpoint from where you can see the line

coast to the city of Alicante.

The Church of Sant Bertomeu

Built outside the walls as true to its factory order, the parish church of Finestrat

dedicated on August 24, 1751 in honor of Sant Bertomeu, patron of the town. His

Construction should begin in mid-seventeenth century, according to the ceramics

recovered

in the crypt of the church, which date from around this century. Baroque style, its facade is

plain and austere, influenced by the early stages of an incipient neo-classicism.

The Chapel of Crist's Remei

Located in the same room as the Castle, where the texts speak of the existence of a

small church built after the conquest by the Christian troops. It was originally a

modest chapel that was the last station on a Via Crucis, which was guarding a

image of Christ Crucified who moved from the church. In 1925 he built this

small chapel with some flashes modernist facade and simplicity of

standard.

La Torre

Declared of Cultural Interest, is in an area near the city center. A

Almohad period fortifications dating to the twelfth century. This is a construction

square of about 8 feet square made in mud lime mortar. Must have had a

considerable height, about 10 meters, and possibly had a vital importance in

defense of its inhabitants.

La Font del Moli

It is the most important source of the term of Finestrat. The first ordinances

known to regulate its waters dating from 1851, although today is governed by the

ordinances established in 1926.

La Font del Moli has 15 pipes, the central one being larger than the rest, and provides a

flow

20 liters per second, according to the average established in recent years.

Its construction includes an underground aqueduct, gallery or Cavone that part dede the

spring where waters flow toward the ravine side of the Port or Barranquet

Moll, and other underground pipeline, starting from the same cliff, towards

cross it, laterla ends at the left, where a gallery

300 meters underground. Islamic period still remain two sections of

aqueduct that fed the mills that can be seen nearby.