



# Sanctuary <sup>© f</sup> SALIENTE

## THE SYMBOLISM OF THE VIRGIN

«A great sign appeared in the heavens: a woman clothed in the sun, the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head; and she is pregnant. And another sign appears in the heavens: a large red dragon. And the dragon sits at the feet of the woman who is about to give birth, in order to devour her son. And she gives birth to a son, he who shepherds all the nations with an iron septre. Her son was snatched up to God and to his throne » *Apocalypse 12*



## LA VIRGEN DEL SALIENTE (LA PEQUEÑICA)

The image of Our Lady of Good Retreat for the Forsaken of Saliente is a fifty eight centimeter baroque linden wood carving in a rich polychrome style. The exact date of its creation is unknown, but it is assumed that the work originates from the 18th century.

Because of its size it is popularly known as "La Pequeñica" or "The Little One" and is the object of great veneration and love by thousands of devotees.

The iconography represents the vision of chapter 12 of the Book of the Apocalypse. The tradition of the church sees in this apocalyptic depiction the figure of Mary or of the Church and associates it with Christ's victory over sin and death.



## LA ROMERÍA

A religious pilgrimage takes place from the Plaza Mayor in Albox to the Sanctuary of Saliente every 8th September. Thousands of pilgrims follow the course of the Rambla on foot to reach the Sanctuary, situated in the steep slope of the Estancias mountains in Cerro Moteruel, some 19 km from Albox. The pilgrimage was declared to be of Andalusian Tourist Interest in 2002.



Opening Times, Sanctuary  
Wednesday to Monday : 09.30 to 13.30 and from 16.00  
CLOSED ON TUESDAY

Restaurant Times  
Wednesday to Sunday: 10.30 a 18.00  
CLOSED ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY  
[hospederiavirgendelsaliente@hotmail.com](mailto:hospederiavirgendelsaliente@hotmail.com)



ALBOX (Almería)



# HISTORY



Constructed during the latter decades of the 18th century, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Retreat for the Defenceless is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in south-eastern Spain. It is located in the municipality of Albox and houses the renowned Virgin of Saliente, an eighteenth century image that enjoys great devotion in the nearby counties in the province of Almería and beyond . The Sanctuary was declared to be a Monument of National Cultural Interest in 1992 and is one of the largest monasteries in Eastern Andalusia.

The chapel was constructed on the site of the old shrine in the prehistoric settlement of Monterroel, an enclave favoured by the first settlers, given its location on the historic route linking the comarca of Los Vélez to that of the Valle del Almanzora.



The layout of the Sanctuary is rectangular, forty six meters long by fifty meters wide. It is in the baroque style in transition towards the neoclassic. The main facade, facing onto the Roel esplanade and bordered by retaining walls, consists of two doors open to the atrium of the chapel and to the entrance to the cloister. Two windows facing the gallery frame the empty central niche.

Adjoining the chapel are the old quarters of the chaplain with its artistic iron balcony.



## THE WISHING WELL

The center of the patio is occupied by a polygonal well that once provided water to the monastery. At the present time it is involved in many legends such as throwing a grain of wheat into the well for every person for whom you desired strength and health; and the more widespread version, where you first make a wish and then throw a coin into the well.



The eastern facade, thanks to the unevenness of the land, has two floors. The first, originally used as stables, is a comfortable hostelry today. A series of windows, as well as a graceful balcony provide light to the various sized rooms on the upper floor. The northern facade, only has one door providing access to the rear patio. To the west, the original Sanctuary windows are preserved. Above the roof stands the dome of the transept with its three adjacent turrets.



The chapel is in the shape of a latin cross, with a gallery at the back. The spandrels under the dome house plaster work referred to as the Laurentan Litanies. Six shrines, empty since the time of the Religious Persecution, mark out the nave and those dedicated to the Sacred Heart and the Archangel Michael are located in the transept. The main alter burned in 1936. Currently there is a carving by Don Jesús de Perceval and some valuable fixtures surrounding the alcove. Two doors open from the main alter, one leads to the sacristy and the other to the shrine of the Blessed Sacrament.

## LA HOSTELRY

Located within the Sanctuary, the Hospedería del Saliente, with 13 rooms, is a unique location, surrounded by nature, serenity, stone and history. Over time it has become a very attractive tourism alternative for friends, families and couples who opt for more tranquil vacations, walks in the countryside, outdoor sports...as well as enjoying a certain exclusivity and, above all, cooler and calmer nights.



Due to their location within the Sanctuary, the rooms are considered to be of national cultural interest. All rooms have air conditioning, free Wi-Fi connections, desk and wardrobe. Some have a private bathroom with hairdryer and bath or shower, whilst others have access to a shared bathroom.

## THE RESTAURANT



The Virgen del Saliente restaurant has the capacity to accommodate up to 180 diners and serves traditional regional dishes. It has an exterior terrace with impressive views of the mountains. The terrace is open in the Summer. The establishment has a games room and conference rooms.