

Spring in the Basque Country

May - June



By: BASQVIUM food, culture & luxury experiences

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Euskal Herria, The Land of the Basques in the local language, is a fascinating destination which comprises in a relatively small piece of land a great diversity of sceneries from the ocean to the mountain range and from modern cities to countryside and vineyards.

Nestled in a mountainous corner of Atlantic Europe, the land of the Basques is still wrapped in a mystery and legend story.

The origin of this people is uncertain, whose language – Euskera - is said to be the oldest living language in Europe and unrelated to any other spoken in Europe, or indeed the world. Euskera's mysterious origins have fuelled too the debate about whether the Basques can boast the oldest European culture.

Anytime is a good time to visit The Land of the Basques, but the bright colours of the spring make special this time of the year.

When the uncertain cold of April disappears and the clouds give way to a shining sun that illuminates for more hours, the ideal phenomenon between spring and summer appears, mixing bright and intense colours throughout our land.



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The forests and mountains begin to turn green and, in turn, the beaches along the coastline gradually begin to welcome the first brave people for the first swim of the year.



This also marks the end of the Easter period, which usually takes place in April, and gives way to other more summery celebrations. These include the 2nd of May, in Bilbao, where a street market with a variety of artistic and cultural activities is held in the heart of Bilbao La Vieja.

A few days later, the famous Otxomaios began in the historic town of Orduña, the only town in Bizkaia with the title of city. These festivities are known for the tradition that narrates the apparition of the Virgin of La Antigua, who is the patron saint of Orduña. As a tribute, a series of livestock fairs, open-air dances, sporting events and an infinite number of activities are held throughout the month of May to commemorate this important date.

Spring is also the sowing season for many of the products that will be harvested in summer and autumn in the Basque Farmhouses. With the arrival of the good weather, sowing work increases considerably, with products such as the famous Gernika green peppers, different varieties of red peppers, Ibarra chilli peppers, beans and tomatoes, all of them distinguished by the Eusko Label Basque denomination of origin quality certificate.

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But it is also time for pumpkin, cucumber, aubergine and parsley, which make up the great vegetable scene in the countryside.



At the same time, other type of food markets are celebrated like Shepherd Fair, held in Ordizia to present the new campaign of the Famous Idiazabal Cheese, the Bayonne Parma Ham Big Fair (French Basque Country) or the Day of Anchovy in Bermeo, Getaria and Ondarroa one of the seasonal fishes of the Spring, together with

Mackerel, Sole, Sea Bream and Mere Fish.

A calm sea allows fishermen to gain these delicatessens from Cantabric Sea and bring them to our ports.



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And respectively, for lovers of good food, Vitoria - Gasteiz offers three alternatives throughout the month of May. The first, Gastroswing, is an exclusive proposal that combines a unique atmosphere, a multitude of activities and gastronomy as the main link. There is also the Euskadi Gastronomy Contest as well as the well-known Semana Grande del Pintxo in Alava.

The new 2022 edition will last from 27 May to 8 June in Vitoria-Gasteiz and there will be two different phases in the capital's catering establishments. The first will be dedicated to the tasting of pintxos in the different establishments and, in the second, there will be a showcooking session with the chefs presenting their dishes to a jury and the public in person at the Palacio Europa. So if you would like to join this wonderful experience, this is your chance.

[Here you have a video where you can see what the final phase was like in 2021.](#)



Similarly, the rest of the towns in the Basque Country will also be starting their famous festivities during this period. Likewise, the XVIII Perretxiko and Livestock Fair of the Basque Country will take place on May 8th in Kuartango and it will be the ideal moment to buy the famous "perretxikos" from the surrounding areas of Gorbeia. As in any other fair, we will also be able to buy craft products, enjoy gastronomic tastings and even discover the local livestock.

On the musical side, this year the cultural agenda is offering more alternatives than ever for spring-summer, due to the recovery of normality after the pandemic. In June starts the open-air festival season, with the return of the Azkena Rock festival to be held in Vitoria-Gasteiz (16, 17 and 18 June), as well as the macro-concert by Fito & Fitipaldis in Bilbao (11 June), among others.

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And if you are a sports lover, this is also the season for you, as the finals of the Basque Pelota Mano Championship in individual and doubles are very popular.

[Here you can see the video summary of the 2022 pairs final held in April.](#)

In addition, and continuing with Basque pelota, the erremontari of cesta punta championship is held every Monday in May in Hernani, a form of Basque pelota that has been practised for over 150 years and has even reached other parts of the world such as the United States.

The good weather invites more outdoor activities, which is why exhibitions of Basque Rural Sports are more frequent, such as cutting logs, lifting stones or mowing grass. These Basque sports come from the work that used to be done on Basque farms, and that work became Basque farms, and that work later became a sport.

You are also in time to attend the “La Liga” football matches that will take place in the stadiums of Mendizorroza (Vitoria-Gasteiz), Reale Arena (San Sebastian) and San Mamés (Bilbao) during the month of May. In them, our local teams will play for the victory.



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And of course, it is still a good time to find good waves to surf and enjoy the many hiking trails for mountain lovers.

As you can see, the transition from spring to summer is full of traditions, outdoor festivities and is the ideal time to take advantage of the arrival of good weather to do all the activities that the cold weather prevented us



And to celebrate this new stage, here you can see the latest video published by “Euskadi Turismo” with the new slogan “Bizit Euskadi: bizit is to come and live”.

We look forward to seeing you!

[Short video of “Euskadi, Basque Country”](#)

TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

From 05.01.2022 to 05.31.2022

International Poetry Festival "Poets in May"
Vitoria-Gasteiz

01.05.2022

Festivities of San Prudencio y Nuestra Señora de Estíbaliz
Vitoria-Gasteiz

From 04.05.2022 to 07.05.2022

SSMF San Sebastian Fashion Festival (Spring-Summer)
San Sebastián

From 06.05.2022 to 16.09.2022

Dantzan plazan (Dance in the Square)
Vitoria-Gasteiz

06.05.2022

Anchovy Day
Getaria

20-21-22.05.2022

XXVII Fish Market
Bermeo

20-21.05.2022

Creative Club
San Sebastián

From 05.24.2022 to 05.29.2022

Komedialdia - Humor Festival
Vitoria-Gasteiz

From 05.26.2022 to 05.29.2022

Pasajes Marine Festival
Pasajes

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10-11-12.06.2022

Gastroswing - International Festival of Swing and Gastronomy
Vitoria - Gasteiz

10-11-12.06.2022

Euskadi Gastronomic Contest
Vitoria - Gasteiz

From 06.10.2022 to 06.22.2022

Álava Pintxo Big Week
Vitoria - Gasteiz

11-12.06.2022

Kaldearte - International Show of Street Arts
Vitoria - Gasteiz

Nearly every saturday

Monthly Street Market
Zarautz

Nearly every saturday

Donostiatruk: Second-Hand Market
San Sebastián

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

From 10.18.2021 to 06.26.2022

Guernica - Agustín Ibarrola
Bilbao Fine Arts Museum

From 11.16.2021 to 06.26.2022

Los Hermanos Arrue en París - José and Ramiro Arrue
Bilbao Fine Arts Museum

From 11.02.2022 to 22.05.2022

Del Fauvismo al Surrealismo - Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

From 02.25.2022 to 06.21.2022

Ferviente Celebración - Jean Dubuffet
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

From 10.03.2022 to 12.06.2022

Cuarto Sagrado - Monira Al Qadiri
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

From 03.18.2022 to 05.21.2022

Ariel On Fire - Sara Morante
Ernest Lluch K.E.

From 03.31.2022 to 06.26.2022

Urban Exhibitions
Arteuparte

From april to september 2022

Motion - Norman Foster
Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

From 04.01.2022 to 06.26.2022

Afrotopia - Héctor Mediavilla
Aiete K.E.

From 04.05.2022 to 06.26.2022

Entre lo Visible y lo Invisible
Bilbao Fine Arts Museum

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12.05.2022

La M.O.D.A. - Concert
Sala Santana 27

05.13.2022

Bad Religion - Concert
Bilbao Exhibition Centre

21.05.2022

Leiva - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla

10.06.2022

Anuel AA - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla

11.06.2022

Fito y Fitipaldis - Concert
San Mamés Stadium

16-17-17.06.2022

Azkena Rock Festival
Vitoria-Gasteiz

06.17.2022

Melendi - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla

06.18.2022

Sebastian Yatra - Concert
Bilbao Arena Miribilla

SPORT PROGRAM

01.05.2022

Athletic - Atlético de Madrid
San Mamés

01.05.2022

Deportivo Alavés - Villarreal C.F.
Mendizorroza

08.05.2022

Athletic - Valencia C.F.
San Mamés

08.05.2022

Martin Fiz Marathon
Vitoria-Gasteiz

11.05.2022

Real Sociedad - Cadiz C.F.
Reale Arena

05.15.2022

Athletic - CA Osasuna
San Mamés

05.22.2022

Real Sociedad - Atlético de Madrid
Reale Arena

05.22.2022

Deportivo Alavés - Cádiz C.F.
Mendizorroza

04.06.2022

Euskadi and Álava Middle Distance Triathlon Championship
Vitoria-Gasteiz

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10-11-12.06.2022

III Vitoria International Gymnastics Open
Vitoria-Gasteiz

11.06.2022

Prueba de Fondo "The Mountains of Vitoria"
Vitoria-Gasteiz

Nearly every monday

Galarreta Jai-Alaia: Erremontari Championship
Hernani



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