

FESTIVITIES

Since eight years ago, La Geria celebrates the Wine Festival every August 15th. It is organised in an area next to Nuestra Señora de la

Caridad chapel at the centre of this protected zone. Wineries install large awnings and invite visitors to drink a glass of wine.

- the individual wind stoppers of every plant can be noticed. Following the LZ-30 road that crosses **La Geria**, fig trees and fruit trees also associated with vine cultivation can be found. Vines are planted in the bottom of large holes of up to 5 m of diameter and 1-2 m of depth. The vine roots penetrate the layers where they find humidity. Today, La Geria landscape is being transformed in order to allow the use of mechanical tools as the traditional semicircular grape harvest system was only possible through a manual process.

Through the Heart of Lanzarote Vineyards

In front of La Geria winery on the left side of the road, we find a recently restored small chapel: Nuestra Señora de la Caridad. A little bit further a sign indicates El Chupadero mountain. Here is where the summer festivities take place every August 18th. Continuing by the central road we return to the path that leads to other wineries. Here we can see a geological cut of the different soil layers where plants and their roots grow. Most vineyards in La Geria belong to families from Lanzarote that accurately follow the traditional cultivation method. Follow the route through the main road and take the turn-off to **La Asomada** and then to **Vegas de Tegoyo**. In front of the chapel of this small village,



DO NOT MISS

Inside Planet Earth you can find a place that is out of this world, Timanfaya, a sea of recent lavas that has been declared National Park. Montaña de Fuego (Fire Mountain)

can be visited in a *guagua* (bus) or riding a camel. Visits by foot are also available by appointment at Centro de Visitantes de Mancha Blanca (Mancha Blanca Visitor Centre).

SURPRISE

Nuestra Señora de la Caridad chapel, located in La Geria. It was built at the beginning of the 17th century. It was then buried in 1730 due to the eruption of Timanfaya and was unearthed again at the start of the last century. Inside, one of the most important paintings in Lanzarote can be found, the Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre, which came from America.

Vineyard landscape at La Geria.



you can find a *jameo*, volcanic tube that is level with the ground. Back on the LZ-30 towards Tegui, take the LZ-56 road to get to an area called **Tinguatón**, one of the closest places to National Park; then, head for **Tinajo**, the locality of Lanzarote where more vines can be found. Take the LZ-58 road here and, then, the LZ-30 on the right; the following location is **Masdache**, a small village that is proud of its chapel. Right after crossing this village, on the left, an essential stop must be made in this route: the Wine Museum in the 18th century El Grifo winery, the oldest in the Canaries. There, a path appears on the left leading to El Islote, an interesting place for real wine lovers. Back on the road, you get to **Tegui**, where Monumento al Campesino (Monument to Farmer) museum-house is located. This is the exit to the spectacular landscape of La Geria, right at the geographical centre of the island. This route leaves visitors with overwhelming and unforgettable feelings. ■