

Castellers de Vilafranca

International brochure



*one of the most spectacular
cultural traditions in the world*

Presentation



Castellers de Vilafranca is a cultural and sporting association whose main objective is to build castells (human towers). The human towers construction was recognized by the UNESCO in 2010 by adding it to the world Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The group was founded in 1948 as a response to the increased interest in human tower building activity in Vilafranca del Penedès. Castells is an ancient Catalan tradition coming from the XVIIIth century popular dance. Nowadays, Castellers de Vilafranca has about 400 active members of all ages, with no discrimination on grounds of race, religion, sex or social status. Castellers de Vilafranca shares the common goal of building human towers, democratic values, cooperation and team work, a constant desire to surpass themselves, and a will to maintain the lead over a select and competitive group of rival human tower associations. Group's headquarters is Cal Figarot, a building located in city center and especially adapted for human tower building activity (high, indoor ceilings for winter use and an open-air courtyard for spring, summer and fall).

Castellers de Vilafranca is one of the most known and popular institutions all over Catalonia and has represented Catalan culture abroad numerous times: France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, England, Netherlands, Belgium, Chile, Luxembourg, Denmark, Slovenia... The association has more than five hundred official supporters, and has the support of several public and private institutions. In addition to hosting and participating in human tower exhibitions, it also organizes other cultural activities, such as small-scale concerts, a poetry contest, a massive bicycle event, a dominoes tournament, food events and a human tower school for kids.

***'Castells' were recognized
by the UNESCO as world
Intangible Cultural Heritage***



'Torre de nou amb folre' is the most difficult 'castell' ever made



strength



bravery



passion



composure



balance



team-working



The 'pinya' formed by hundreds of people is the base of the tower



We train to reach impossible constructions



We're an open and integrating community working in the same direction



The younger members of the team are who climb to the top



Thousands of fans follow the performances



The 10 floor structure is the highest



Camp Nou, FC Barcelona stadium



Manneken Pis, Belgium



Vatican City



Frankfurt, Germany



Carlisle, UK



Kraków, Poland

local, to global



Paris, France



Santiago, Chile



Pisa, Italy



Valparaíso, Chile



Donosti, Basque Country

Exhibition formats

Bombay, India



Small group

*25-50 persons
5-6 floor structures*

Manacor, Majorca



Whole group

*150-175 persons
8-9 floor structures*

Sint Trudent, Belgium



Half group

*100-125 persons
7-8 floor structures*

Awards

- ★ *8 times winners of the Human Towers Championship of Tarragona*
- ★ *Golden Medal of Vilafranca del Penedès City Council*
- ★ *Saint George Cross of Generalitat de Catalunya, the Catalan Government*



International events

- 1992 Sevilla. EXPO Universal*
- 1992 Barcelona. Olympic Games*
- 1993 Santiago de Compostela. Xacobeo*
- 1996 Copenhagen. European Capital of Culture*
- 1999 Barcelona. FIFA world player of the year gala*
- 2002 Salamanca. European Capital of Culture*
- 2004 Barcelona. Universal Forum of Cultures*
- 2007 Frankfurt. Book Fair*
- 2007 Vilafranca del Penedès. Noah Gordon's "The Bodega" presentation*
- 2009 Barcelona. Red Bull Air Race*
- 2010 Valparaíso. Universal Forum of Cultures*



Chopenhagen, Denmark



Nacions Unides
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

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with the support of:

