

TRADITIONAL MAY DAY THE FESTIVITY OF THE "MAYAS" AND THE "MAY'S TREE" IN MADRID

What is it celebrated in May Day?

May Day is a very ancient celebration that persists in many European countries.

Although today it's synonymous with International Worker's Day the 1st of May celebrate the beginning of the spring.

When is this festivity?

This festivity usually takes place in the beginning of May, the first or second day or the 1st Sunday in the month, it depends of the local tradition.

What does the people do in this day?

In Spain there are many different traditions in this day such as "Las cruces de Mayo" in Andalusia where The people make beautiful crosses adorned with carnations, or the "Festa dos Maios" in Galicia celebrated with bonfires such as in Ireland.

I'm going to speak about May Day in Madrid, in some villages which preserve the ancient traditions.

There are two basic kinds of celebration: The celebration of "La Maya" and "The May's Tree".

"Las Mayas"



The most famous towns where this festivity is celebrated are Colmenar Viejo and El Molar, in the north of Madrid

This celebration dates from medieval age, appears in ancient documents and is a festivity of interest to tourists.

A girl between 7 and 11 years is chosen "Maya". In the tradition she had to be a virgin young girl at marriageable age.