SHOOTING IN MENORCA



MENORCA islas baleares

MENORCA film commission

MENORCA

has everything ... and more

On the island of Menorca we know very well that luxury does not lie in accumulating great treasure, but in being that treasure. Spain's most easterly island is a natural film set of the highest order, offering the best coastal settings just a stone's throw away from lush Mediterranean woodland, impressive lighthouses overlooking the sea, historical enclaves untouched by time, and stalactite-filled caves.

Menorca is a unique island that is home to an extraordinary wealth of architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage a result of its thrilling history as a strategic enclave in the centre of the Western Mediterranean.

Menorca offers much more than beautiful scenery and a well-conserved natural environment. Its light – soft yet intense and made up of a thousand shades – is highly prized by professional photographers. With more than 300 days of sunshine a year, an average temperature of between 18 and 30 ºC, and located just two hours from any destination in Europe, Menorca is poised to be the preferred choice in the Old Continent for film, television and advertising productions.

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Favàritx (Maó)

CONNECTED TO THE WHOLE OF **EUROPE**



Cala Morell
Ciutadella



Menorca is located in a privileged enclave in the middle of the Western Mediterranean. The island is just a half-hour flight from Barcelona, an hour from Madrid, an hour and a half from Rome, less than two hours from Paris and just over two hours from London and Berlin. By sea, Mallorca is an hour and half from mainland Europe, while Barcelona can be reached in just three and a half hours.

A 700 KM2 NATURAL FILM SET

- 216 kilometres of wild coastline
- More than 100 coves and beaches
- A summer sea temperature of 26 ºC
- Biosphere Reserve
- 185 km coastal path (Camí de Cavalls) encircling the island
- 47 kilometres from one end to the other: everywhere is just a stone's throw away
- Enormous geological variety
- 2,700 hours of sunshine a year: the best light in Spain
- 16 hours of sunlight every day from May to October
- Average annual temperature of 18 ºC and 30 ºC in summer



Lighthouse of Cavalleria
Es Mercadal

TEN REASONS TO FILM IN PARADISE

1. **CONNECTIVITY:** Half an hour from Barcelona, an hour from Madrid and two hours from the main European capitals.

2. **ACCESSIBILITY:** All the locations with the best natural environments are less than half an hour away by car.

3. **EASE:** Help obtaining filming permits from the island's authorities

4. **SAFETY:** Menorca is a safe place that offers peace and quiet in first-class accommodation.

5. **PROFESSIONALS:** Access to professionals in all sectors to facilitate your shoot.

6. **FACILITIES:** You can travel light because all your production needs can be met on the island.

7. **LIGHT:** 300 days of sunshine a year, 10 hours of sunshine in winter and up to 16 in summer with unbeatable light.

8. **ACCOMMODATION:** A wide variety of accommodation options: agrotourism, luxury villas, hotels, campsites,

9. **COMPANY:** The Menorca Film Commission will accompany you every step of the way.

10. **NATURE:** A wide variety of landscapes in a small area, from the sea to the lush interior.





Líthica. Old limestone quarries transformed into a space for culture and tourism **(Ciutadella)**

HOW TO SHOOT IN MENORCA

A natural **paradise** full of resources

Shooting in Menorca is easy if you comply with the requirements in place to protect its enviable nature and wildlife. In 2017, the Government of the Balearic Islands issued a publication establishing clear guidelines and criteria for processing and assessing film-related activities, photography sessions and other types of professional audiovisual productions within a Natura 2000 Network space, in accordance with Article 39 of the Spanish Law on the Conservation of Spaces of Environmental Importance (LECO).

Activities that do not involve interventions in the natural environment or the countryside are not considered to be projects that require an environmental repercussions assessment. Audiovisual production activities not considered to involve interventions in the natural environment or the countryside are those that: are carried out with portable equipment, do not require anchoring or other types of installations requiring excavation, do not use electricity generators or PA or music systems, are carried out between July and February, do not use drones or similar flying devices and are carried out during the day.

The Menorca Film Commission will provide you with advice and support regarding filming permits. Menorca is also home to a large number of professionals who can help meet your needs.





Sanitja. Ancient Roman port and encampment from the 2nd century AD (Fornells, Es Mercadal)

GREEN SHOOTING
Sustainable filming

In 1993, UNESCO declared Menorca a Biosphere Reserve, and this reflects the balance achieved between social and economic progress and respect for the territory and its traditions. Sustainability, which has only been recognised in recent years as globally important, has always been the island's hallmark, shaping the island's activities in relation to the political, social, environmental and tourism spheres and instilling maximum respect for the countryside and the conservation of the natural environment.

In 2019, UNESCO declared that Menorcan waters, from the coast to 12 nautical miles out to sea, are also a Biosphere Reserve. This means that Menorca has the largest marine Biosphere Reserve in the Mediterranean Sea, covering an area of some 500,000 hectares.

The audiovisual sector must harness its immense communicative power to be at the forefront of promoting respect for the environment. The most efficient way to achieve this is to provide audiovisual production companies with a well-defined tool designed to improve the sustainability of their work.



ENERGY SAVING

Guarantee a reduction in the environmental impact of the audiovisual work, limiting its polluting emissions



TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMO-

Reduce polluting emissions arising from trips in motor vehicles



CATERING

High-quality, healthy food with reduced waste, fostering the consumption of local, green products.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Throughout the shoot, guarantee the correct management of waste and prioritise waste recovery and recycling.



CHOICE OF MATERIALS

Foster the use of environmentally friendly materials and implement efficient reuse solutions to avoid unnecessary waste.



COMMUNICATION

Disseminate and promote the audiovisual work by means of communicative events designed to encourage the adoption of good practices.



Views of the Menorcan plain
from the ruins of the 12th-century
Arab castle of Santa Águeda
(Ferreries)



Cala Morell (Ciutadella)



TAX INCENTIVES

- 30% tax rebate in the first million euros in local expenses and a 25% over 1 million.
- 1 million euros is the minimal amount of expenses to be eligible and 200.000 € for animation and VFX.



BEACHES AND COVES
The most visible secret

A hypnotic untamed landscape, with reddish sands and aqua-marine waters that envelop everything. The beaches of Menorca's north coast are truly unique, a far cry from their sisters in the south. The signature rocky formations of black slate and red clay produce a wild coast dotted with beautiful beaches and unspoilt coves.



Cala Trebaluger (Ferreries)

The constant buffeting of the northern winds has hewn the northern face of the island into spectacular forms, creating an almost lunar landscape at times.

Sprinkled with the finest white sand and lapped by stunning turquoise waters so crystal clear that you can see the seabed as if it were a photograph, the coves and beaches on Menorca's southern coast are idyllic, picture postcard locations for the most demanding of shoots. The beaches on the southern part of the island are a joy for the senses. A treat for the eyes, as the intense blue of the summer sky merges with the friendly blues of the Mediterranean. Chalky cliff faces, beautiful ravines, sand dunes and woodland surround these precious natural beauty spots.

In a breathtaking array of shades from white to dark grey, beaches and coves bejewel Menorca's coastline. The natural beauty of their surroundings, the magnificent conservation of their eco-systems, and the undeniable majesty of the Mediterranean as it kisses the sand make the beaches of Menorca an absolute paradise and a backdrop of spectacular beauty for top-flight audiovisual productions.

The infinite colours, textures, and atmospheres that characterise the island's different beaches and coves not only make exploring the coast even more interesting, but also enhance their value for all types of shoots. The authentic, unique and magnetic spirit of each beach and cove captivates your soul the moment you set foot on its sand.





Es Grau (Maó)

THE SEVEN LIGHTHOUSES

Let yourself be guided by the light.



Off the Menorcan coast, in shallow, crystalline waters, lie hundreds of stories of loss, which, despite their tragic nature, have helped clarify our understanding of Menorca's history. These are the ships that crossed the Mediterranean and came up against the island's steep, irregular coastline.

Since the 19th century, this dangerous coastline, sometimes hard to make out in the middle of a stormy night, has been gi-



Lighthouse of Cavalleria (Es Mercadal)



Lighthouse of Favàritx (Maó)

ving up some of its secrets. The seven lighthouses built on the island are a reminder of all those sunken stories. And the flashes from each of the towers alert the watchful navigator of the proximity of the coast. They range from the small signals of the ports of Maó and Ciutadella to the enormous heights of the three lighthouses on the north side of the island.







Convent of Sant Francesc.
Cloister of the current Museum of Menorca **(Maó).**

18th century

The living legacy of the island's British and French past

Throughout the course of history, Menorca has been coveted by different peoples and civilisations. The Phoenicians and Ancient Greeks saw Nura or Meloussa (as they had respectively named Menorca) as a good trading post. The Carthaginians came for military purposes, while the Romans not only gave the island its name, but also left behind a number of interesting archaeological remains.

The presence of the Vandals and the Byzantines was followed by over three hundred years of Arab domination. And later the island was even ruthlessly sacked by the Turks under the leadership of the infamous pirate Barbarossa. But it was the French and especially the British who left the longest-lasting marks on the island when it was in their possession in the 18th century. Menorca's time under British rule had a strong influence, bearing cultural and architectural fruits whose traces are still in evidence today. Although the island was under the control of the French for barely seven years, from 1756 to 1763, it was enough time for them to leave an enduring legacy, including the town of Sant Lluís, which they founded in honour of King Louis XV.



NATURAL INTERIOR
Emerald green heart

Wild, typically Mediterranean vegetation accounts for a third of Menorca's surface area. It is so diverse that on the island you can find lush woodland with ferns in the shadiest areas, pine forests along the sandy coast, and holm oak groves infused the heady aroma of olive trees. Thanks to this greenery and one of the Mediterranean's richest and most diverse geologies, inland Menorca is capable of representing a wide range of environments from all around the world.



Barranc d'Algendar
(Ferreries)





PORTS

Another way of looking at the sea

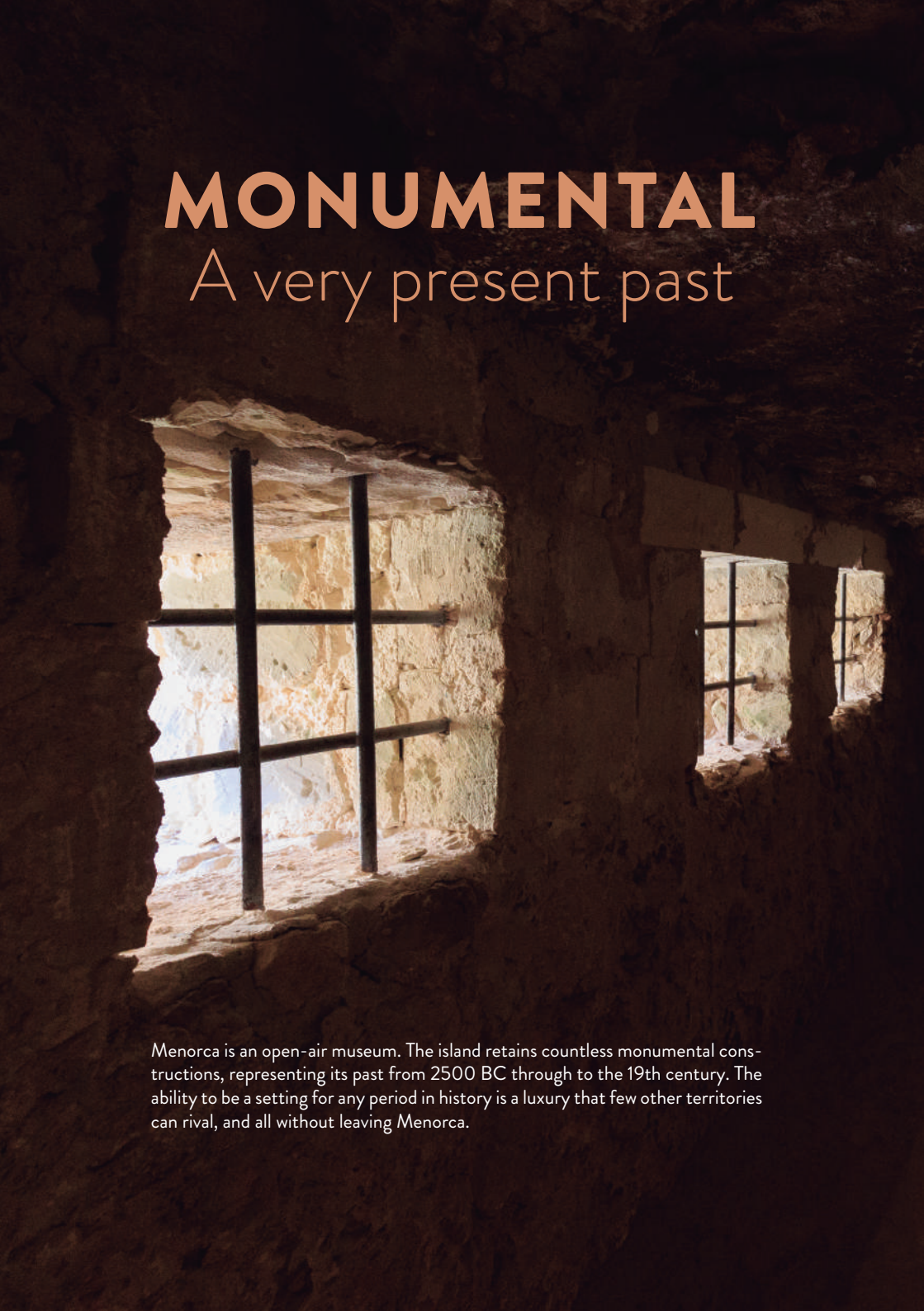


Menorca cannot be understood without reference to its ports. In the west of the island an enormous, six-kilometre long estuary makes Maó one of the world's largest natural harbours. This made Menorca one of the most prized pieces of land in the entire history of the Mediterranean, thanks to the shelter it offered to countless fleets. And the east is home to another large port, Ciutadella, a geographical feature that meant it was the island's capital until the arrival of the British in the 18th century.



The port of Maó with L'Illa del Rei in the background

MONUMENTAL
A very present past



Menorca is an open-air museum. The island retains countless monumental constructions, representing its past from 2500 BC through to the 19th century. The ability to be a setting for any period in history is a luxury that few other territories can rival, and all without leaving Menorca.



Fort Marlborough.
A military fortress built during the rule of the British in the 18th century.

The archaeological remains of the first communities who lived in Menorca have shaped the island's heritage and landscape. The Talaiotic Culture, Menorca's pre-Roman inhabitants, stands out from its contemporaries in the Western Mediterranean due to the singular nature of elements such as its stone monuments called taulas, which are found nowhere else. Their archaeological richness is hypnotic.

But it is the 18th and 19th centuries that have yielded the most luxurious backdrops. They include the hospital on L'Illa del Rei, the tunnels of the castle of San Felipe, Fort Marlborough, and the coastal defence towers, all from the 18th century, and the monumental Fortress of La Mola, which was built by order of Isabella II in the 19th century and is still intact because it was never attacked.





British hospital on L'Illa del Rei de Maó (18th century)





Camí de Cavalls,
Sa Mesquida
(Maó)
section

CAMÍ DE CAVALLS

Step by step, around the entire island

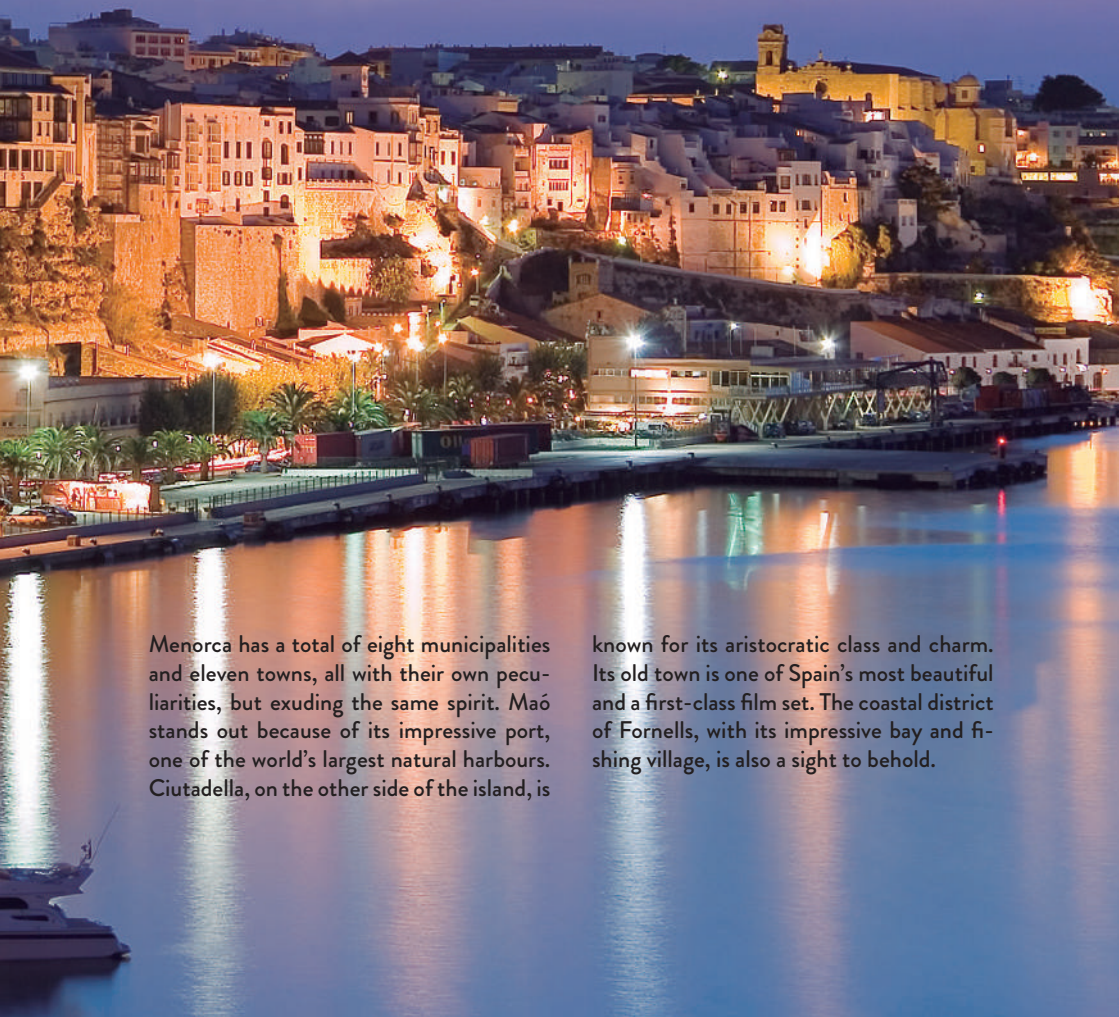
Throughout history Menorca was always coveted by other civilizations because of its excellent location in the Western Mediterranean and its magnificent port at Maó. Its extensive coastline and countless coves meant that it was never an easy island to defend. This is why in the 13th century, the King of Mallorca, James II, ordered his knights to keep armoured horses to defend the island and its people. The Camí de Cavalls, literally the horse path, which is beautifully laid out and signposted, runs the entire length of the coast. During its first period of domination in the 18th century, the British Empire considered it to be a "royal path" and accordingly ordered it to be kept "clean and usable", a custom which has endured to this day.



The city of Maó and its natural harbour

CITIES

Perfect for storytelling



Menorca has a total of eight municipalities and eleven towns, all with their own peculiarities, but exuding the same spirit. Maó stands out because of its impressive port, one of the world's largest natural harbours. Ciutadella, on the other side of the island, is known for its aristocratic class and charm. Its old town is one of Spain's most beautiful and a first-class film set. The coastal district of Fornells, with its impressive bay and fishing village, is also a sight to behold.





Fornells (Es Mercadal)

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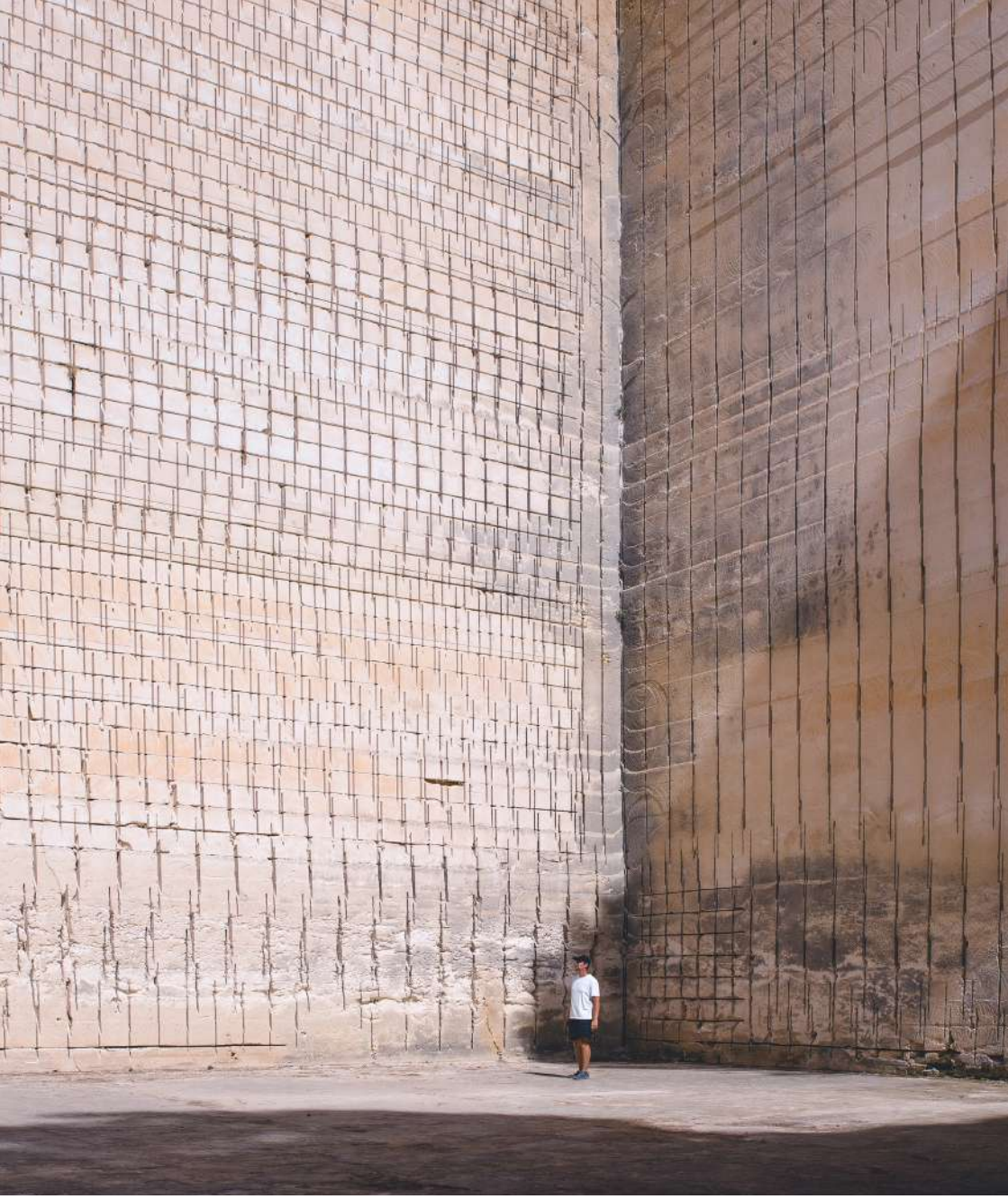
VILLAS WITH CHARACTER

Irresistible sets



Menorca lives to serve its visitors. In recent years, the island has recovered a great number of urban and rural properties and transformed them into boutique hotels of great beauty and private properties of unquestionable artistic value.

The island is home to countless charming villas of all types. From luxury mansions to urban palaces with 300 years of history and working farms. Everything you need for your film project.



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