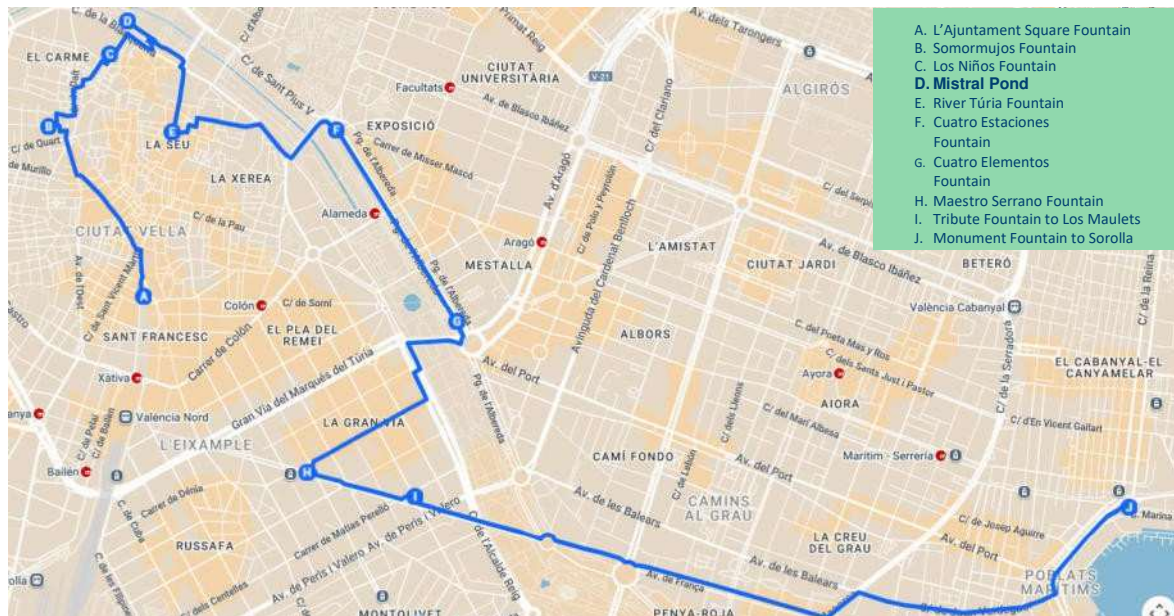




# MISTRAL POND

## ORNAMENTAL FOUNTAIN TOURIST ROUTE

### GENERAL ROUTE PLAN



Close to the Serrans Towers, specifically at 14 La Blanqueria Street, there is a garden area with two notable elements: the tribute to Mistral and the pond under the '*Niña de las coletas*' (Girl with pigtails). Both the marble bust and pedestal dedicated to the author are by Valencian sculptor Luis Bolinches Company. It was inaugurated in Conde de Carlet Square on 12 November 1933 to mark the first centenary of his birth in 1930. It was a gift from Lo Rat Penat society to València City Council.

Flooding in 1957 forced its removal due to damage suffered and it was not placed in its current location until 1963, as a complement to this pond, which is part of Serranos' '*alameditas*' ensemble.

Frédéric Mistral was a poet whose life and work focused on defending and vindicating the Occitan language (also called Provençal), founding the Félibrige movement. He wanted to restore the nobility of this language, officially banned as a result of the Villers-Cotterêts ordinance of 1539.

During the feast of Saint Estelle on 21 May 1854, Mistral, along with his friend and professor Joseph Roumanille and five other Provençal-speaking writers, met and decided to found a literary school to preserve the Provençal language and culture. He gave his seven companions the name of '*félibres*', a word of unknown etymology and meaning. The Félibrige adopted seven as its sacred number, Saint Estelle as its patron and Mistral swore to write its 'law'. Five years later he would publish *Miréio* (Mireille), an epic poem that narrates the story of two young lovers; its success even reached Paris and it inspired an opera.

He actively collaborated in the annual *Armana provençau* compilation and, in 1878, he published at his own expense a comprehensive Provençal-French dictionary called *Tresor dóu Félibrige*.

In 1904, he won the Nobel Prize along with José de Echegaray 'in recognition of the fresh originality and true inspiration of his poetic production, which faithfully reflects the natural scenery and native spirit of his people, and, in addition, his significant work as a Provençal philologist'. His work was so influential that it inspired the pseudonym of poet Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, known to the world as Gabriela Mistral.

The second sculpture —*La Niña de las coletas*— is also by Valencian sculptor José Esteve Edo, best known for this sculpture of a girl with pigtails reading. His work can be found all over the city: the Real gardens, Temple Square, Antiguo Hospital gardens, La Semana Santa Marinera Square, Blasco Ibáñez Avenue, and many more.

He was awarded the second national sculpture medal in 1968 and, for this reason, on 25 June 1969, a proposal was raised to the City Council to acquire a replica of the original bronze figure kept at the Reina Sofía museum of modern art in Madrid to decorate a street or public garden

Esteve Edo was co-founder of the Parpalló Group, which brought together different post-war artists and intellectuals and, in 2004, he was awarded the title of favourite son of the city.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Address:** At 14 La Blanqueria Street.

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Access:** Gravel path.

**Parking:** Spot reserved for PRM nearby at 8 La Blanqueria Street and another at 1 El Pare d'Òrfens Street.