

1860

SUGAR CANE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Ramón de la Sagra was a versatile Galician man who actively participated in the sugar cane transformation process. He wrote a report that was a valuable analysis of the farming and manufacturing methods followed on the coast. After his conclusions and with the use of steam as the engine of these transformation processes, the Peninsular Society installed the first mechanized factory in Almuñécar in 1845.

From that date on, the industrialization of sugar began, be taking the pre-industrial sugar mills and factories completely. until the early 1860s, thankfully to the protectionist policies of the State.



1882

INAUGURATION OF THE SUGAR FACTORY “NTRA. SRA. DEL PILAR”

On 14 January 1882, the official deed of sale to the company Burgos, Domínguez y García was formalized. Later, in 1893, the Marquise of Esquilache, Doña Pilar de León y Gregorio, became the owner of the entire property. The building was an original design by the architect Francisco Giménez Arévalo from Granada. It was a typical model of the factory-colony in the sugar business: the factory building, three warehouses for belongings and tools, two houses for employees, two houses for doormen, twenty-seven houses for workers, farm equipment and stables.



1901

FIRE IN THE FACTORY "NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA CABEZA". PROGRESS

The vigorous development of the sugar industry on the coast of Granada and Malaga was not unconnected with the social inequality typical of industrial areas. The low prices imposed on sugar cane by landowners and businessmen, and the situation of scarcity, ended up into the desperation of day laborers and farm workers, which exploded on 24 April 1901, causing the fire in the factory "Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza". At that moment, the factory was owned by the Larios family.



1903

SPANISH GENERAL SUGAR COMPANY – (SGAE)

In 1903, the Spanish General Sugar Company, (SGAE) was created to control the production and the general sugar market due to the overproduction that caused large losses. The production will reach the 97% of the national sugar, both cane and beet, in its 56 factories. The SGAE acquired, among others, the sugar factory “Nuestra Señora del Pilar”, “Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza” (also known as Alcoholar), “Nuestra Señora de las Angustias” (also known as Fábrica Chica/Fabriquilla), “San José” (located in Varadero – Port of Motril) and “Nuestra Señora de Lourdes”.

On December 4, 1903, the agreement of sale of the factory “Nuestra Señora del Pilar” (Motril) was formalized by the Marquise of Squilache to the SGAE. The SGAE will be the owner of the factory until its definitive



1927

AERIAL CABLE FOR SUGAR IN MOTRIL



In 1925 was planned the construction of an aerial cable for the transport of goods (flour, cement, sugar and fertilizer) in wagons with a load capacity of 700 kg each. The aerial cable linked the port of Motril with the town of Dúrcal and was inaugurated in 1927. The first station of the port of Motril was located in this sugar factory. The distance between the factory and the port was 2,673 meters. This station was a rectangular construction inside of the factory complex and located on the left side of the entrance to the Plaza de las Canas. The cable crossed the sugar factory at the height of the offices and the Plaza de las Canas until it ceased to operate in 1950.

1930

"NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PILAR" FACTORY EXPANDS ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY

As a result of a major modernization carried out by the Sociedad General Azucarera de España (SGAE) between 1929-1930 to improve its production, the "Nuestra Señora del Pilar" factory became an important factory milling about one third of the sugar cane of the Vega del Guadalfeo..

Then, was installed a new mill train ordered from Fives-Lille of Paris, a new 550 liters per minute direct-acting (steam) pump, two new Philippe mechanical syrup filters, a Vernon mechanical sugar drying system, a sugar elevator, a Sterling steam boiler. And the existing chimney was built, which was ordered to M. Jacobson, with a height of 45 meters and a diameter of about 4 meters.



1936

CIVIL WAR PERIOD

During the Civil War (1936-1939) the factory was a strategic production and militarized point. Part of its facilities were converted into seven air raid shelters.

It was bombed on April 26, 1937, killing fifteen people, destroying the sugarcane conductor and paralyzing the production for ten days.

Already in the 1940s, given the effects caused by the war, machines and equipment from other SGAE sugar factories were brought in and installed to bring the factory back to full capacity.

1953

GENERAL SUGAR COMPANY OF SPAIN

In 1953, the II Countryside Fair in Madrid had an international character. There, in the pavilion of the provinces of Málaga, Granada and Almería, a model was promoted which, from the sugar cane, was able to produce sugar and showed the production process.

At the fair, each day was dedicated to a province, taking a tour of the entire Spanish geography, capturing part of its rural, folkloric and culinary atmosphere. The model, was made by the Motril School of Arts and Crafts, and is still preserved today in the Fábrica del Pilar.



1963

THE CELULLOSE FACTORY BEGINS ITS

In 1963 the National Celulose Company was inaugurated. It was installed near the port of Motril due to the excess bagasse. This sugar cane residue from the sugar process was to be used to produce paper, taking advantage of the cellulose in its fibres.

The residue was stored in the form of mountains throughout the area known as the Vega (flat area near the port).

The importance of the factory in local society, which has employed more than three thousand workers, has been undeniable.



1970 THE PAYMENT ACCORDING TO WEALTH

En In a process controlled by the company and cooperative of sugarcane farmers, when the product arrived at the factory, it was analyzed, to determinate its composition and to pay for each batch according to the quality (sucrose content) that they brought.

The analysis was carried out in the rupro or laboratory located in the canes's square, with the help of the tasting bridge, which took the cane samples directly from the truck's load.



1973 ATTEMPT TO MECHANIZE SUGARCANE HARVESTI



Two "Massey Ferguson" cane cutting machines arrived at the port from Australia. They were bought by the "Azucarera Montero".

They came to make up for the lack of labour due to emigration, but they were unsuccessful due to the small size of the farms which did not allow them to be used despite failed attempts to join properties from different farmers.

1979 THE FILM FACTORY

The Fábrica del Pilar becomes the setting for the film "Cuba"; it is an action and adventure film shot with Sean Connery as the main protagonist and directed by Richard Lester.

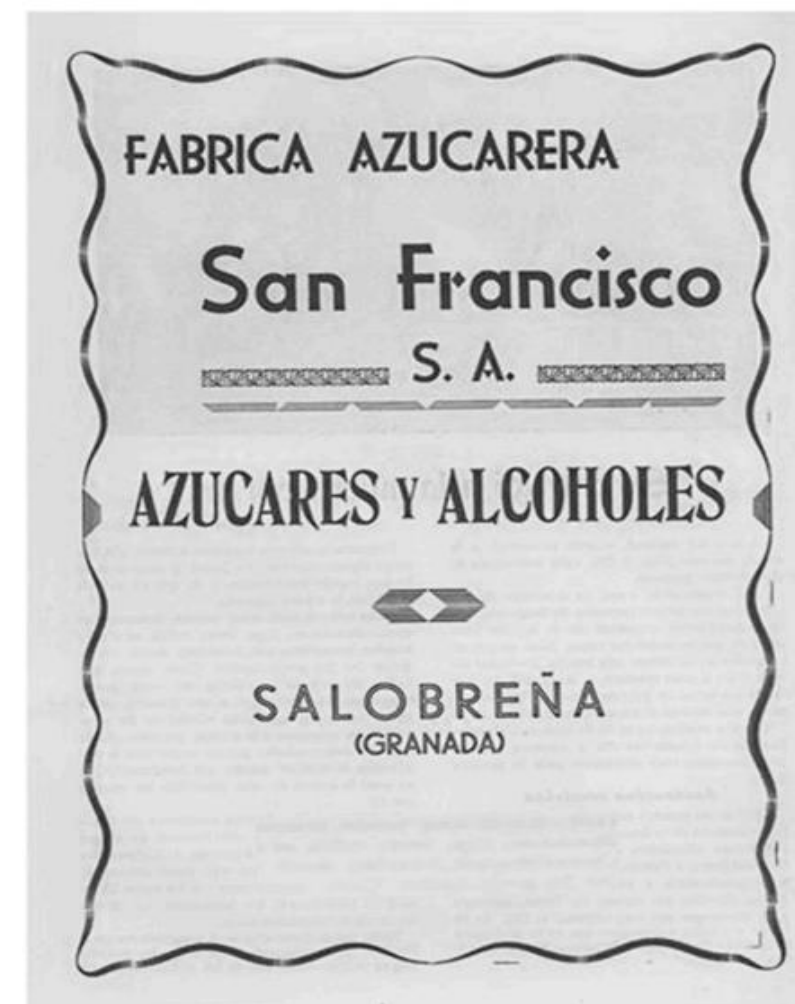
The locations and scenes of the film take place in Jerez, Cádiz and Motril. In Motril it was filmed in the Fábrica del Pilar and near the Canal road, in the area of Monte Castillo known as the Era del Maíz, to be more precise, above the aviation barracks.



1980

**"Nuestra Señora del Pilar"
factory and "San Francisco
de Salobreña" sugar factory.**

A new corporation (Sociedad General Cañera S.A), was set up to relieve both factories of continuous losses and low productivity. The new company acquired the land and buildings and planned works to increase the technical operating yield.



1984

END OF PRODUCTION AT THE 'EL PILAR'

On 26 September 1984, in the extraordinary general assembly was accepted to close the facilities for sugar production in the factory, as well as an employment regulation plan, whereby the workers could be relocated in other centres of the company or its subsidiaries, receiving free accommodation at the new site or financial compensation of 15,000 pesetas.



1988

MOTRIL SHOWS ITS TECHNOLOGY THROUGH A MODEL

In 1988, the national commission coordinating the exhibition "Spain, 200 years of Technology" in commemoration of the second centenary of the death of King Charles III, assigned to Motril to show the evolution of technology in Spanish industry over the last two centuries.



1989

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY, PRE- INDUSTRIAL SUGAR MUSEUM

The archaeological remains of a set of industrial installations dedicated to the milling and processing of sugar cane were discovered.

A museum was built which includes replicas of the machinery used to produce sugar cane in the pre-industrial period in Motril, the high point of sugar cane cultivation between the 16th and 18th centuries.

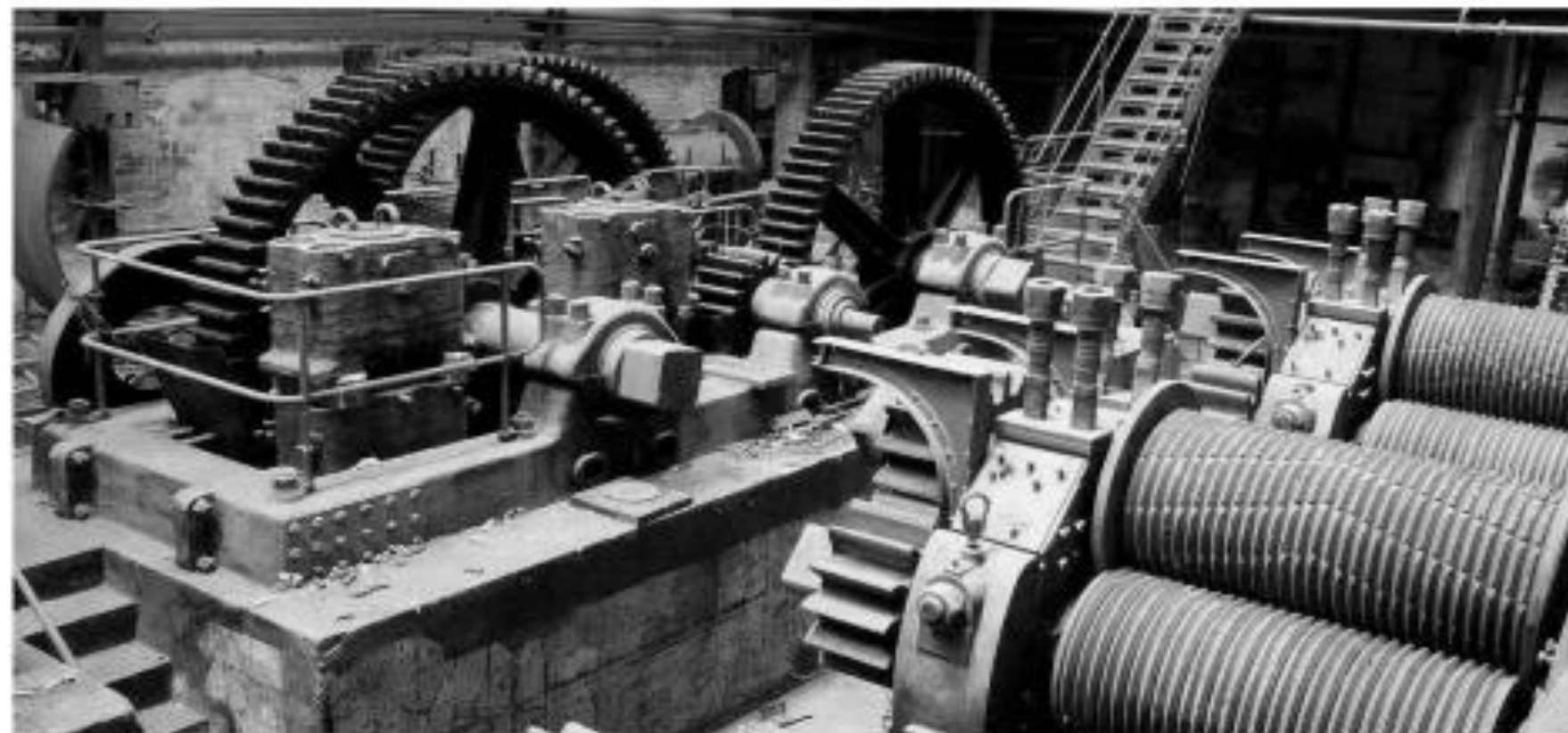


1997

THE PROCESS OF THE TRANSFORMATION INTO AN INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM BEGINS

The Motril City Council and the SGAE (Sociedad General Azucarera de España) reach an agreement to transfer "Nuestra Señora del Pilar" factory to house the Industrial Museum of Sugar Cane.

A year earlier, in 1996, the machinery was protected thanks to its registration as a BIC (Asset of Cultural Interest), in the General Catalog of Andalusian Historical Heritage, thus beginning the path to its transformation into a museum.



2008

FIRST WORKS FOR THE ADAPTATION OF THE COMPLEX OF BUILDINGS



Between 2005 and 2008, consolidation and cleaning works were done in the facilities, which allowed progressive improvement to activate all buildings and their new uses.

2011 **OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION HALL - THE SUGAR WAREHOUSE**

The Sugar Warehouse is inaugurated as an exhibition and multipurpose space where very relevant activities for the future Museum are carried out. It is the first building in the complex to be activated, allowing the factory to be incorporated into the cultural activity of the city.



2013 **MOTRIL AND THE SUGAR: LANDSCAPE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE**



The Andalusian Legacy, the Junta de Andalucía and the Motril City Council organize an Exhibition with more than 350 elements, among which the first restored original pieces belonging to the factory machinery are already incorporated.

2015 THE MUSEUM ALREADY HAS A PLAN

The Municipal Plenary assembly unanimously approves the Director Plan of the Industrial Sugar Museum and an endorsed document is now available to manage the actions and resources necessary to bring the museum as a reality.

2016 A CAFE-RESTAURANT FOR THE FUTURE MUSEUM

The Museum's new cafe-restaurant is located in the old chapel and stables of the factory complex with public and private investment.

2022 INSTITUTIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

The old engineer's house becomes the Institutional Headquarters of the factory “Fabrica del Pilar”.

2023 COMPLETION OF ACCESS WORKS TO THE MILL TRAIN

The works that allow the visit to the mill train warehouse and the sugar cane square are completed, thus beginning the museum activity in the Factory

Pilar Factory - Pilar Factory (1882-1986):



Ongoing project: "Open for Works"

The Sugar Factory "Nuestra Señora del Pilar" in Motril is currently in the process of restoration and transformation that will lead it to become the Industrial Museum of Sugar and a Cultural Center of reference in the región. A treasure trove of forgotten memories, personal experiences, technological, social and knowledge milestones to which is added the characteristic identity of the people of Motril and its region.

Jobs and knowledge that have been passed down through the generations are now the aim to transform this industrial site into a place of culture and memory.

Many disciplines trigger the creation of an extensive history: Architectural restoration, Industrial archaeology, Oral - Documentary Memory sculpt the Project of the Museum.

For this reason, the project foresees a gradual enhancement with an open and transversal method that is regulated by the project "Open for Works", where the Museum's own contents and the evolution in its development or "how to be while it is being done" are shown.

Industrial heritage

Industrial heritage includes a wide range of elements, from structures and machinery to industrial complexes and communities, representing the history and evolution of industry and technology.

These elements are essential for understanding economic and social development, especially during the Industrial Revolution.

Industrial heritage includes not only the preservation of physical objects, but also the protection of related knowledge, skills and traditions, providing a unique insight about the history of the technology, working conditions and ways of life.

These challenges require preservation, interpretation and adaptive reuse strategies that not only maintain the historical integrity and legacy of these sites, but also provide opportunities for community and cultural development.

Industrial heritage is therefore a vital component of collective history, providing important lessons about progress and the challenges associated with industrialisation.

Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution, which began in Britain in the late 18th century and spread throughout the 19th century, radically transformed production techniques from manual methods to mechanised manufacturing; evolved steam-powered transport systems such as railways and ships; reshaped the global economy, laying the foundations of modern society and was a key catalyst for technological development and progress in the centuries that followed.

From the second third of the 19th century until the second half of the 20th century, Andalusia stood out for its industrial mining activity in the regions of Almeria, Cordoba, Jaen and Huelva. Malaga, in the iron and steel, textile and chemical sectors, became the second industrial city in Spain after Barcelona. It was also a pioneer in the introduction of steam machinery and other advanced technologies of the first industrial revolution.

Agro-industry has historically been a key sector of the Andalusian economy. The wine industry and the historic sugar industry are clear examples. The sugar industry had a large presence in Granada and Malaga, although, at the end of the 20th century, most of the factories disappeared and with them their machinery and buildings. On the Costa Tropical, the factory of Ntra. Sra. del Rosario (Salobreña) was the last to cease its activity in 2006.

The Ntra. Sra. del Pilar factory in Motril ceased its activity in 1984 and maintained, until the end, the steam engine as the main source of motive power for a wide variety of machinery, from a large rolling mill to small steam horses. Its unique dismantling process has allowed the conservation of the steam machinery in its original location, making it an outstanding example of Spanish industrial heritage and of the history of the industrial and technological revolution in Andalusia.