



# Residency Handbook

**Cortijo el Moro** art residency is located in the Andalucían countryside, 3km from the white-washed village of Vélez Blanco. Surrounded by olive trees and magnificent mountains, we offer an environment conducive to creativity and artistic research.

Spread across 3 floors, with 2 acres of terraced gardens, **Cortijo el Moro** offers the following:

- 4 private bedrooms with desk and chair (single and double occupancy available)
- 2 shared bathrooms
- Fully equipped kitchen/diner
- Washing machine
- Living room
- Roof terrace with barbecue
- Ample gardens
- Furnished 'Fly free'
- Private parking
- Communal studio
- Ceramics workshop, with electric kiln, hand tools and kick-wheel

Services included:

- Bedlinen and towels
- Free use of bicycles
- Wifi access - living accommodation, studio and workshop
- Weekly clean of communal spaces and bedrooms, including change of bedlinen
- Use of woodworking and metalworking hand tools
- Technical assistance

**Cortijo el Moro** sits on the edge of the Sierra de María-Los Vélez Natural Park, Almería, and experiences a mediterranean climate. However, at approximately 900 metres above sea level the air is fresh and pure, with nature in abundance - including daily sightings of the magnificent Griffon Vultures; with an average 325 days of sunshine throughout the year, the light is incredible.



Built in the 16th century, the imposing castle of Vélez Blanco is an outstanding example of Spanish Renaissance. Providing an awe inspiring backdrop to the village and with daily open access, this is a fabulous place to visit, soak up the history and be inspired.

The village of Vélez Blanco has a population around 2,000 inhabitants. Aside from the castle, located just outside the village are the caves of Los Letreros, which house the now infamous Indalo Man drawings and early cave art (residents wishing to visit the caves may need to arrange this in advance). Vélez Blanco also has a museum, a theatre, a weekly market (Wednesday), an outdoor swimming pool (open mid-June to 1st September), several bars and restaurants offering authentic Andalucían tapas and a traditional wash-house where you can still

find residents from the village washing their smalls! Residents can also collect fresh spring water from the village, which runs down from the Sierra de María, we promise you, you are unlikely to ever taste water as good as this!

Vélez Rubio is the nearest town to **Cortijo el Moro**, 7km away. This town has a population of around 6,000 inhabitants, as such this is the working town for the Los Vélez area. Here you will find services such as printing and laser-cutting, a fantastic museum (open Wednesday to Sunday), theatre (with frequent flamenco music), a library, post office, several gyms, a selection of shops, bars and restaurants, a small park, an olympic sized swimming pool (open mid-June to 1st September) and a lively Saturday market. The impressive Parish Church of 'Our Lady of the Incarnation' is also located in the main square in Vélez Rubio, this is an important architectural example of the final evolution from the Baroque to the neoclassical.

For those wishing to explore a little further afield, it is possible to take a bus from Vélez Rubio to Granada (approx. 2hr journey). The village of Orce, approximately 45 minutes by car from **Cortijo el Moro** is a beautiful place to visit for a tapas lunch, a swim in their natural swimming pool - shared with the fish (open all year round) and the museum of the 'First Human Settlement in Europe'.

A little further, and again only accessible by car, is the town of Olula del Rio, where the wonderful 'Museo Ibañez' is situated. An excellent museum, which contains in its interior one of the largest and most representative contemporary art exhibitions in Andalucía. The museum houses more than 1,200 iconic pieces of



contemporary art, with works by Goya, Lopez Mezquita, Paco Lopez, Los Madrazo, Chicharro and Sorolla.

The coastline of Costa Cálida, Murcia is just under an hour away. This unspoilt coastline has some fantastic beaches, including Playa de Los Cocedores, and the town of Aguilas. A little further up the road is Pulpí Geode, one of the largest crystal caves ever found.

## **Getting to Cortijo el Moro**

By air:

Corvera International Airport, Murcia - is the closest airport to us, at around 1h 15m by car/taxi. We can arrange a local taxi for you upon request, current (2025) prices are 80€ each way.

Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández Airport - is around 2 hours by car/taxi. It is possible to get a bus from this airport to Vélez Rubio. We can then arrange transport from Vélez Rubio to Cortijo el Moro. We can arrange a local taxi from Alicante airport, please contact us for cost.

Madrid - Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas - It is possible to take a high-speed train from Madrid Chamartín-Clara Campoamor station to Murcia, and then the Alsa bus from Murcia to Vélez Rubio, from where we can arrange collection.

Train timetable and prices found here: [www.trainline.com](http://www.trainline.com)

Bus timetable and prices found here: [www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es)

By road:

You can reach Cortijo el Moro by the A-92 motorway, travelling either east or west, taking junction 408 / Vélez Rubio.

By train:

Los Vélez does not unfortunately have a train line, the nearest station is Lorca (currently with a rail replacement bus service from Murcia whilst the High Speed link is being built, due to be completed 2026/27).

## **Our Facilities**

### Studio

We provide residents with a shared, light studio at the top of the house. A desk, chair and desk lamp are provided for each resident. Off of the studio is a small terrace, with great views of La Muela mountain.

Easels may be available upon request. A projector may also be made available.

There is a small selection of tools, collage materials, fabric off-cuts etc., which residents may use during their stay. Of course, we please ask that any tools that are the property of **Cortijo el Moro** remain at the residency.

### Ceramics Workshop

On the ground floor is our ceramics workshop. Whilst this is a developing space, at the time of writing it offers workspace for residents, a small selection of hand-building tools, an electric kiln (internal dimensions: 40cm x 40cm) and kick-wheel. \*Clay and other materials may be ordered by residents prior to their stay. If you wish to use our small stock of clay, glazes and materials these will be charged at cost price, as will kiln firings.

Kiln firings take place weekly, over the weekend, so any work residents wish to fire must be ready by Friday pm at the latest.

\*We use the following suppliers for our clay, glazes and tools:

<https://www.marphil.com/>

<https://www.sio-2.com/gb/>

Please note, we do not receive mail or deliveries to Cortijo el Moro, therefore deliveries should be sent to the following address:

**Laura Brown**  
**Ctra. A-KM 161, A317**  
**Anror Oil**  
**Vélez Blanco, Almería 04830**  
**Spain**

### Wood and Metalworking Tools

We have a small selection of hand tools which may be used upon request.

### Technical Assistance

We can provide technical assistance for ceramics, wood and metalworking.

Upon request, it may also be possible for residents to use items found around the cortijo, such as wood and scrap metal.

## **The Accommodation**



Cortijo el Moro is a sympathetically renovated typical Andalucían farmhouse. The rooms are spread over 3 floors. This does unfortunately mean that our premises are not suitable for those with mobility issues.

There are 2 bedrooms and one bathroom on the ground floor (both with shower over bath), and access to the ceramics workshop. Steps lead up from the ground floor to the living area, open plan kitchen and diner, off of which are steps up to the large, furnished roof terrace, with barbecue. From the kitchen are 3 steps up to a third bedroom and a further two steps to a second bathroom. The final floor features a single bedroom and access to the shared studio space.

Bedrooms have the capacity for either single or double occupancy (two rooms are available for double occupancy). All rooms are furnished with bed, clothes rail, lamp/s, fan/heater, desk and chair. Bedlinen and towels are provided.

There is around 2 acres of external terraces and gardens at **Cortijo el Moro**. Residents are free to use this space. Upon arrival we will make the boundaries of our property known to residents, as with most Spanish properties, the boundaries are not always clear.

There is a 'fly-free' area located in the garden opposite the front entrance to the cortijo, this can be a wonderful place to come and sit to relax, sketch or write. There is a large table seating 6 and further benches to seat others. There is also an electric ceiling fan and light.

Accommodation is provided on a self-catering basis. There is a fully equipped communal kitchen and barbecue on the roof terrace for residents use. A fridge-freezer is provided, as is storage for dried food.

If we are meeting residents from the bus stop in Vélez Rubio, before returning to the residency, we will first stop at a supermarket. Furthermore, we will enable residents to visit a weekly market and/or supermarket visit.

We provide bikes free of charge to residents during their stay. There are no local buses near to **Cortijo el Moro**, however taxis and minibuses can be arranged for those wishing to venture further afield.

#### Partners and Pets

We do permit partners to stay with art residents, however we do please ask all residents and their guests to respect other artists staying at **Cortijo el Moro**. Working areas, such as the studio, ceramics workshop and dedicated outside working areas, are for artists only. We ask all residents and their guests to be mindful of their fellow housemates at all times, including keeping the communal areas clean, tidy and safe from harm.

We do also welcome pets at **Cortijo el Moro**, however this must first be approved with other residents before making a booking, for those sharing the space with you must be in agreement.

### **Guidelines for Residency Use**

#### Cleaning and House Maintenance

Common areas, kitchen/diner, bathrooms, studio, living room, roof terrace, fly-free are cleaned on a weekly basis. However, residents are responsible for maintaining the levels of cleanliness through the week, including washing, drying putting away their own dishes, cutlery and food. No personal items should be left lying around in communal spaces. Any

wet laundry should be hung out on the clothes line whenever possible. Nothing hazardous is to be taken into the cortijo at any time.

### Bicycles

Bicycles may be used by residents at their own liability. **Cortijo el Moro** accept no responsibility for their use.

### Security

Upon arrival residents will be issued with a key to the main door of the cortijo. We ask you to carefully close the entrance door, ensuring all appropriate doors are locked of a night and when you are the last person to leave at any time.

Smoking is not permitted inside the building. Ashtrays and smoking areas are provided outside. Please do not light fires outside the property, we are located in a HIGH FIRE RISK AREA and fires are strictly prohibited by the Junta de Andalucía.

**Cortijo el Moro** does not take responsibility for the loss or theft of personal effects. Please keep any money or valuables on you at all times.

### **Emergency Contacts**

Emergency Services - Fire / Police / Ambulance - 112

24 Hour Medical Centre, Vélez Rubio - (+34) 950 41 95 28

Chris - (+34) 619 688 419

Laura - (+34) 697 331 337

### **Application Process**

We ask prospective residents to first email us with the following:

- Artist statement
- 5 images of their work (jpeg maximum file size (per image) 500KB)
- A paragraph detailing their motivations and expectations for time spent at the residency
- Preferred dates
- Professional website link (if any)
- Instagram username

### **Booking**

Upon selection and confirmation of availability we ask prospective residents to secure their dates by making a deposit of 50% of the cost of their stay. This is the only way to secure requested dates.

The remaining balance will be payable 7 weeks prior to a residents' stay.

Invoices can be provided upon request.

## Funding

**Cortijo el Moro** is not in a position to offer any funding to artists. We are able to connect you with an external fundraising body, who may be able to help you apply for funding to enable your residency. However this will be a direct agreement between the fundraiser and the artist, **Cortijo el Moro** is not liable for any part of this relationship.

Potential residents should email: [laurasworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:laurasworkshops@gmail.com) to request contact details for our fundraising collaborator.

