



INFO & CONTACTS

Força Real
66170 Millas

Municipal property
(Millas, Montner,
Corneilla)

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SOURCES

Historical,
Religious, and
Topographical
Report on Força
Real - MM V Aragon,
President of the
Chamber at the
Imperial Court of
Montpellier, 1859

[les-pyrenees-
orientales.com](http://les-pyrenees-orientales.com)

PHOTO CREDITS

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The 17th-century Hermitage of Força Real offers one of the most beautiful views in the department from its hilltop location (507 m). To enjoy this panoramic view, you will need to climb to the peak along one of the incredible paths winding up through the garrigue, vineyards and olive groves. Força Real is also the story of Notre Dame de Força Real, a chapel that has weathered the storms of history and continues to live on thanks to the association dedicated to its preservation.

AN EXCEPTIONAL LOCATION

Força Real is the name of this rocky peak overlooking the valleys of Têt and Agly. From its summit at 507m above sea level, the view stretches across the entire Roussillon plain, the sea, the Albères, Têt valley and the Corbières. The Cerdagne mountains can be seen to the west, with the Madres standing out in particular.

Força Real hill marks a crossroads in the Pyrénées-Orientales, standing between the towns of Millas, Corneilla La Rivière and Montner.

There are two ways to reach it, either by road from Millas or Montner, or along one of the footpaths that lead up to the peak. One of them, the **botanical trail from Millas (1.5 hrs - Easy level)** allows visitors to discover the various species found in the Mediterranean forest, as well as plant species of Roussillon. There are 45 botanical signposts dotted along the path, with information about the surrounding vegetation.

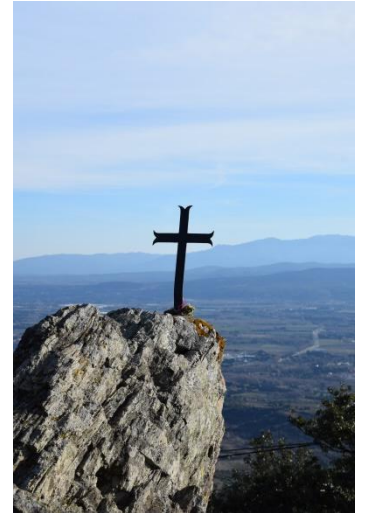
A SPOT OF HISTORY

The history of the hermitage began at the end of the 17th century with the fall of the Château de Força Real. Dona Joana de Ros, Baroness of Montclar, granted the Reverend François Bobo, priest of the parish of Pézilla, the privilege of building a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The first bell was blessed in 1708. The remains of the signal tower served as the foundation for the construction of the apse chapel. The chapel was surrounded by plantations that allowed the hermit to live independently. In 1714, the annual procession of the Millas parish was established to ward off the violent hailstorms that struck the plain. In this role as a *Conjurador*, the hermitage was as its peak in terms of influence.

After the Revolution, in 1791, worship and annual processions were suspended. The site was occupied and then looted by Republican soldiers, who left a scene of ruin behind them. It was thanks to the initiative of the inhabitants of Millas that the site was restored in 1819. Processions resumed in 1822.

Today, the site and any restoration work are managed by the **Notre Dame de Força Real association**. Festivities in honour of the Virgin include ceremonies on the evening of 14 August, on 8 September and every Good Friday.



Find out more at [tourisme-roussillon-conflent.fr](https://www.tourisme-roussillon-conflent.fr)

