

REPORT

## The Madriu forge, more ready than ever and fully dressed

Various authorities attend the guided tour on the occasion of the completion of the archaeological site

SFGA



The Madriu forge yesterday morning, after concluding its remodeling.

PARIS MAMEGHANI  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley has experienced its definitive culmination this week with the completion of four years of archaeological work for the remodeling of the old Madriu forge. An occasion that led to a special guided tour last Wednesday

for the inauguration of the historic site and which some authorities of the country wanted to miss, such as the Consul Major of Escaldes-Engordany herself, Rosa Gili, the Deputy Syndic General, Sandra Codina, or the head of Culture, Youth and Sports, Mònica Bonell.

Precisely, Bonell remarked to the attending media that from

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**The candidacy for the intervention was approved by Unesco, with international recognition**

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the Ministry of Culture they are «very happy and satisfied» because there has been an area where all visitors to the Principality can understand «what happened and how iron was worked here». He also emphasized that the candidacy for his intervention, which is 20 years old, was approved by Unesco, thus giving recognition to the site on an in-



ternational scale. With the closure of the space, Bonell added that there is the intention that from next year different guided routes will be organized in the area so that all citizens and tourists «observe how the forge was worked, with a series of signs already in place». It is worth saying that tomorrow will be the last guided tour of the site this summer.

Aside from that, the explanation provided by the head of the expedition and Govern-

## The tank that fed the steel structure could measure between twenty and thirty meters high

ment cultural heritage technician, Olivier Codina, was frankly interesting about the function of the Madriu forge, a steel complex that dates back to the century XVIII, as well as the different interventions that are being carried out around livestock structures that even predate the construction of the forge. In this way, the director of the expedition emphasized that «the entire feed channel and the base of the forge are made of wood» and highlighted the recreation that the Government has



Remodeling of the Madriu forge.

### OLIVER CODINA

GOVERNMENT CULTURAL HERITAGE TECHNICIAN

«The entire feed channel and the base of the forge are made of wood [...] We have restored part of the wall, which was where the coal bin was located»

### MÒNICA BONELL

MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

«We are very happy because there is an area left where all visitors can understand what happened and how iron was worked»

prepared of what all this material looked like.

Along these lines, Codina pointed out that the tank that fed the steel structure could measure between twenty and thirty meters high, and was the main base of the forge. On the other hand, the expert in archaeological cultural heritage pointed out the importance of the restoration of the site, explaining that it had made it possible to understand and study the beginnings of Catalan forges. Regarding the remodeling, Codina said that they have restored part of the wall of the forge, which was where the coal mine was located, after the space was modernized in the 19th century.

To finish, the technician continued the explanation focusing on the closure of the coal room and the covering of a roof for the forge to achieve the effect similar to a factory. At the same time, he described that its operation came thanks to a house that is next to it, of which only the walls have been consolidated and its entire facade prevails, which is why it could not be completely excavated. In addition, he commented that of the 16 forges that existed in Andorra, only the Rosell forge is known to have had its plans drawn up by an engineer, since the others were made by blacksmiths. ●

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