



As Formentera gears up for its local holiday, or *diada*, decision-makers gathered today for a one-off plenary session to vet proposed candidates for the island's honorary distinctions, the Sant Jaume Awards, in 2021.

Assembly members unanimously backed giving the Medalla d'Or (Gold Medal) to the island's information professionals. As President Alejandra Ferrer put it, "by delivering news and insight about local goings-on to islanders, [these individuals] guarantee one of the most basic human rights, the right to information – an indisputable pillar of the freest and most independent thinking". The poignance of the award is underscored by the pandemic-era efforts of news outlet staff on the island.

The three Sant Jaume awards will go to:

Three Kings of Formentera

In recognition of the momentum and social commitment surrounding Three Kings cavalcades, the Yuletide Mitjana Festa, charity activities and cultural and popular festivals as expressions of local identity and popular culture on Formentera.

Fonda Pepe

An iconic local establishment whose history extends from the fifties to present day, Fonda Pepe has been the undisputed fulcrum of Formentera's unflagging multiculturalism since opening and remains key source of identity and uniqueness today.

Teixits J. Marí Serra

Since the mid-20th century, when Teixits J. Marí Serra opened as a family business trading in fabrics and textiles, they have become one of Formentera's flagship establishments.

Adoptive daughter

Assembly members also agreed to name Remedios Castillo Cañas (Granada, 1940 - Formentera, 2021) the island's adoptive daughter. Beyond Castillo's work in ceramics, the award highlights her passionate, thirty-plus-year career as exponent of the discipline. Castillo shaped the imagination and creativity of so many Formentera residents, and maintained a deep commitment to peaceful coexistence, participation and equality.

President Ferrer congratulated honorees on behalf of the local cabinet and invited them to an 8.00pm awards ceremony on Saturday 24 July in the courtyard of the La Mola lighthouse. Attendees should arrive 30 minutes early to ensure orderly seating. The event will be aired on the YouTube channel of the Consell de Formentera and TEF.

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Consell de Formentera