



# CREIXELL

Swiss-born photographer Walter Ferrier owns a house built on the foundations of a Moorish castle in a small village in Catalonia, Spain. Each year he returns to celebrate the end of summer with the people of Creixell

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS: WALTER FERRIER

**A** SINGLE CHAPEL BELL chimes. It's 11am on the first day of the first weekend of September in the Catalan village of Creixell. The *Festa Major De Creixell* has begun. All 36 inhabitants, among them farmers, intellectuals, doctors, an acupuncturist and businessmen, don their Sunday best and gather in the village's only street.

The mayor, Pere Moy, clad in white, leads the procession to the chapel. This festival is the biggest one held in Creixell – only the *Concurs de L'Allioli*, which announces the spring, is comparable.

Creixell boasts none of the trappings of so-called civilisation – there are no

shops, no restaurants – so a festival is always an important event in this village situated 130km north of Barcelona.

Every important event in Spain begins with worship. The priest from neighbouring Borrassà conducts the service, followed by some words from the dignitaries. Then the people, many of whom have come from all over the region, make their way to the El Moli Park.

This page The festival begins with a procession to the chapel. After the service the massive fires get going, the townsfolk open their stalls and finally, the festival-goers tuck into their food. Musicians play and everyone dances late into the night