

GENELEC®

CASE STUDY

**Historic
site, modern
recording**

GENELEC THE ONES MONITORS
EXPAND THE RECORDING ARSENAL
AT LA CASAMURADA





COMBINING 12TH CENTURY ACOUSTICS
WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART AUDIO TECHNOLOGY
IN SPAIN.

Nestled amongst the vineyards of Catalonia's Penedès region, La Casamurada is a residential studio that has been created to offer state-of-the-art recording facilities in a tranquil setting. The studio has built its reputation on delivering a unique experience for artists that draws on all the acoustic benefits of its historic location, while also offering a thoroughly modern technical environment. As such, Genelec monitors have

been an important feature of [La Casamurada](#) for years, and the studio has invested in a pair of [The Ones 8361](#) coaxial monitors to further expand its capabilities.

The studio itself is located in the former wine cellar at the base of a defensive tower in a 12th century fortified farmhouse. In 2007, Jesús Rovira, bassist and composer for legendary Catalan rock band [Lax 'n' Busto](#), decided that the



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Roberto López of Audio-Technica (L) pictured with La Casamurada owner Jesús Rovira (R).

acoustics made the cellar perfect for recording, and set about creating a space that would give musicians everything they need from a residential studio, while also respecting the original fabric of the building.

The restoration and conversion of the former farmhouse has resulted in a complex that offers artists the opportunity to focus completely on their music. It features two very different recording spaces as well as residential facilities that enable musicians to create when they want to, and unwind when they need to.

With its high ceilings, stone walls and abundant natural light, the 100m² main room at La Casamurada has a unique sonic signature that has made it a favourite source for countless artists. Added to this, the wine cellar's tile-lined former cistern has been transformed from a

practical tool for keeping wine cool to a location with fantastic natural reverb when recording in stereo. The smaller second room features more traditional acoustic treatment and provides even more control over the sound.

Rovira has been a Genelec user for around 15 years, so it's no surprise to find a variety of monitoring options already in the studio facility, including [1029](#) nearfield monitors and a [7071](#) subwoofer. The studio's monitoring system has now been expanded with two 8361 three-way smart active monitors, the flagship of The Ones family of point source models.

“We use the new 8361s for recording – their primary use – and mixing,” explains Rovira. “We're very satisfied with their performance; in fact, all the engineers who have been in the studio since the 61s were purchased have been very pleased

” GLM IS ADEPT AT CORRECTING FLAWS IN THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOU USE IT.



and have told me so in no uncertain terms!”

The 8361 monitors were created to offer an exceptionally wide dynamic range, unrivalled directionality and imaging, and an SPL of 118 dB, providing true reference monitoring even at longer listening distances. The 8361 promotes faster and more consistent decision making, and also allows users to work reliably on longer sessions – because unnatural imaging, a main contributor to listener fatigue, is minimised.

“These new Genelec monitors tell you crystal clear what’s going on and how to resolve it in your recordings and mixes,” says Rovira. “The feeling of stereo and 3D depth is beautiful. Plus, they can mess up any guitar player’s hair and go way down low!”

To get the most out of its new system, La

Casamurada also took advantage of the calibration capabilities of Genelec’s [GLM](#) loudspeaker manager software. To achieve the best results, Rovira worked with Roberto López from [Audio-Technica](#), Genelec’s distributor in Spain, to ensure that the monitors were optimised perfectly for the acoustics of the room. “The GLM software is very useful and adept at correcting flaws in the environment in which you are going to use it,” states Rovira. “It also allows you to control other features such as the ISS power-saving mode which automatically switches to standby when the monitors are not in use for a certain period of time.”

“The acoustic treatment in the room is excellent, so once we’d analysed the system’s performance with GLM all that was required was some very minor adjustment in the LF region below 100 Hz,” adds López. “Overall, the response is smooth

and flat, and this combination of an excellent room and a great pair of monitors really does produce mixes you can trust. Jesús is planning to move the 8361s from the console meter bridge to floor stands, and then all that's required is a simple re-calibration. The flexibility that GLM gives you makes life so easy!"

The new monitoring system has been called into action for numerous sessions in the first few months since the addition of the 8361s. The

artists that have benefitted from the new set-up include Ciudad Jara, with the Santos and Fluren production team, Despistaos with Tato Latorre, a jazz production with the Joan Claver Trio, Los Telepáticos with Ricky Falkner and Jordi Mora, and Mi Capitán, a band that includes members of Standstill, Egon Soda and Love of Lesbian.

"I'm very happy with these monitors," concludes Rovira. "In fact, I've already recommended them to quite a few people. Everything seems to indicate that it's been a good investment."



THE KIT

- 2 x 8361A
- 2 x 1029A
- 1 x 7071A
- 1 x GLM Software

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