

## Los Silos...

There are three silos in the Alcazaba similar in structure to the dungeons, but smaller, and in areas where there is no dampness. In many cases they have been confused with dungeons, and it is possible they could have been used for that purpose at some point in time. The first is by the exit of the Puerta del Cristo (Gate of Christ): in front of it there is an excavated space, now broken, which previously housed the image of the Virgin of Atocha, a white marble figure, which came from the works of art gathered after the Civil War, and which is now part of the collection of Museum of Malaga. Next to this space, protected by a small railing, there is a silo or grain store, the mouth of which opens into the floor of a Roman garum basin, built and covered with "opus signinum", a kind of concrete containing many ceramic fragments, which is very long-lasting, and which can still be clearly seen. The silo was built on this site, like the other found in the upper precinct, because it is an area of living rock, with no fissures, which prevents moisture from seeping in. In Roman times, the southern slope was therefore full of garum and fish salting basins. In fact, it is very likely that this space was also used for the same purpose when *Malaka* was a Phoenician factory, given the morphological characteristics of the hill, as well as the level of sunshine in the area, which is completely south facing.

