

The Illuminated Streets of Ruzafa

A major part of [Fallas](#) is its competitions. Paella championships, sports tournaments, *fallera* pageants, and of course the selection of the year's best monuments. But the most dazzling battle takes place on the streets of [Ruzafa](#)... or rather, above them. Every year, a few *casales* compete to erect the city's most mind-blowing streetlights.



The monuments of Fallas are incredible, and the [Cremà](#) is unforgettable, but for me, nothing is so breathtaking as watching the streetlights of Ruzafa being switched on. Millions of sparkling LEDs arranged in intricate constellations bathe the neighborhood in light. Anyone with the misfortune of living on one of the illuminated streets won't get much sleep, but their sacrifice is appreciated by the rest of us.

This year, four commissions participated in the competition, but the two which traditionally fight for first place are Sueca-Literato Azorín and Cuba-Literato Azorín: rivals situated on streets parallel to each other. We caught the opening show of Sueca-Literato Azorín, whose illumination was based on the legend of Icarus, and then walked over to Cuba, who looked to the film [Stargate](#) for inspiration. Sueca-Literato Azorín would later be declared the winner of 2015, but