

## ChatGPT Version 5.2

**January 19, 2026**

**You said:**

I'm working on a document from the Crown of Aragon in 1387 about a place named Maresina. There might be a castle there. Maresina is likely a Latin toponym and I want to know the Catalan name for this place. Can you help me figure out where Maresina is?

**ChatGPT said:**

Thought for 2m 11s





Most likely, your “Maresina” is the Maresme (Catalan: *el Maresme*)—i.e., the coastal strip just north of Barcelona.

Why that identification is plausible:

- In medieval/late-medieval Latin coming out of Barcelona-area administration, it’s very common to see **Latinized regional labels** built from a “maritime” root (rather than a single village-name). In Catalan, *maresme/maresma* fundamentally means “(area) near the sea / maritime zone,” ultimately from Latin *maritimum* (and a variant *maresma* from *maritima*).
- The **Maresme comarca** is exactly the long coastal corridor **between Montgat and the Tordera**, squeezed between the coast and the Serralada Litoral—precisely the

kind of zone that shows up in chancery/diocesan geography as a named “maritime” tract.

### So what would the Catalan name be?

If your Latin form is **Maresina**, the best Catalan match to test first is:

- **(el) Maresme** (or in some historical/variant usage **la Maresma**)

### “There might be a castle there”

If your document hints at a **castrum** connected with *Maresina* as a *region* (not a village), that can still make sense: Maresme is dense with castles. A high-probability “usual suspect” to check is **Castell de Burriac** (Cabrera de Mar), which is explicitly framed as one of the Maresme castles and is well documented under the earlier name “Sant Vicenç” (until 1313).

### Quick way to confirm from your 1387 text

Look for any of these “geographic anchors” near *Maresina*:

- **Besòs / Bésos** (river boundary marker for Barcelona vs. the coast northward)
- Mentions of **Montgat, Mataró, Arenys, Calella, Tordera**, etc.
- Any phrasing like **citra/ultra** (“on this side / beyond”) tied to a river or coastal route

If you paste **just the clause** containing *Maresina* plus ~1–2 lines around it (especially anything like *castrum*, *rivo*, *terminis*, *vegueria*, *diocesis*), I can usually tell whether it’s being used as a **comarca/region label (Maresme)** or whether it’s hiding a **more specific micro-toponym**.

### You said:

I think you are right, that this document does refer to Maresme. I would really like to find any scholarly publications that mention something about Maresme in late 1386 or 1387. Can you find any mention of it in peer-reviewed journals or academic monographs?

### ChatGPT said:

Thought for 1m 19s

Here are a few *scholarly* places where **Maresme** shows up right in (or immediately straddling) **1386–1388**—with enough detail that you can chase the exact documents.

### Direct 1386–1387 (Maresme named + ACA citations)

### 1) Sant Pol de Mar (Maresme) + royal/infant commissions (1386–1387)

Joaquim Graupera's study on written culture in the *Baix Maresme* discusses the Carthusian house at **Sant Pol de Mar** and notes:

- **May 1386:** the *infant Martí* pays funds to the prior of Sant Pol (Mateu Clarà) to acquire liturgical books in Avignon (for Valldecris).
- **1387: Queen Violant de Bar** commissions books (linked to Girona scribes) for Sant Pol, and the article gives the precise ACA register references for the 1387 entries (including **6 Aug 1387** and **7 Aug 1387**).

This is especially useful for you because it anchors Maresme activity in the first regnal months of **Joan I (r. 1387–1396)**, and it hands you **ACA Cancelleria register + folio** pointers for 1387.

### Direct 1387–1388 (Baix Maresme topography / landholding)

#### 2) Landholding near Mataró, with a document dated 1387–1388

Coral Cuadrada's 2025 peer-reviewed article on the medieval Maresme (focused on landscape/water, but heavy on archival topography) explicitly cites an **"establiment" (grant/establishment) to two pieces of land dated 1387–1388** (AHPB, with shelfmark), in a discussion of coastal/lowland place-names between **Mataró** and **Sant Simó**.

Even if your 1387 item isn't about that exact spot, this article is a strong "late-1380s Maresme" scholarly foothold—and it models how the toponymy appears in real documentary practice.

### A solid academic monograph to mine for 1387 Maresme context

#### 3) Montserrat Richou, *La terra, la família i la mort al Baix Maresme (1348–1486)* (Fundació Noguera, 2012)

This is a full monograph on **Baix Maresme** across exactly your period window and is repeatedly cited in later scholarship.

(I couldn't open the publisher PDF directly because it blocks automated access, but the bibliographic reference is clear in the peer-reviewed citation above. )

### Quick "next-step" search strings (to catch more 1387 hits fast)

If you want to expand beyond the items above, these tend to surface late-1380s Maresme mentions quickly:

- "Maresme" "1387" "Joan I"
- "Sant Pol de Mar" "1387" "Violant"

- "ACA" "Reg. 2053" "f. 21 v" (because it's already tied to 1387 Maresme-adjacent book commissions)
- "AHPB" "1387-1388" "Mataró"

If you paste the exact line from your 1387 document where **Maresina** appears (even just  $\pm 10$  words), I can suggest the most likely *Latin form*  $\rightarrow$  *Catalan form* mapping for *that specific scribal context* (and whether it's being used as a comarca label like **Maresme**, a narrower coastal district, or a property/fortification reference).

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.