

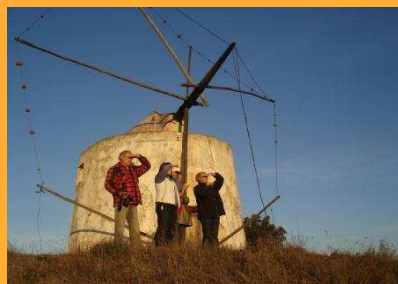
# MONTE DO CASARÃO

cottages in Portugal

extra newsletter

# VKA

from 5 till 10 november 2008



**What at one point started** as a vague arrangement becomes reality November 2008.

De Vrije Kunstgroep Almere (Free Art Group Almere) visits Monte do Casarão to paint and enjoy a holiday.

Exciting, for us too. Can we handle such a large party? Won't the weather spoil things? Will everybody enjoy themselves? Actually all goes perfectly well. From the start right to the end.

**The first day (1):** the arrival on Faro Airport, the drive to Monte do Casarão; the enthusiastic reunion, coffee and tea with a *pastel de nata*; getting acquainted with the estate and, following a lazy afternoon recuperating from getting up early and a long journey, the barbecue at night.

**The second day:** painting **on your own hill (2)**, around the cottage. The party isn't made up of art group members alone: four spouses and one daughter have tagged along as well. Anneloes joins in the painting, the men join Eric, who's rented a car, on day-trips.

**The third day:** painting **among the ruins (3)**. That's the only blemish: just when everyone is seated, ready to start painting, a drizzle starts. It's not that bad, but bad enough to pack up and leave. All choose to continue painting from photos back in the cottages and to try again on Sunday.

**The fourth day** (Saturday) is dedicated to **the day out (4)**. Two minivans and Eric's car drive the party to Vila Nova de Milfontes and then to Cabo Sardão. At the end of the day there is dinner in Odemira, the main parish in the municipality of Odemira. *Sopa, arroz de tamboril* and *pudim flan* are on the menu and wines, laughter and singing (by the people at the next table) add lustre to the meal.

**On the fifth day** the entire party returns to the ruins. This renewed attempt works out really well, including pigs, coffee, my sister-in-law and the neighbour. By five o'clock, the pieces of work are arranged and - like every day - **the review (5)**, follows, chaired by Jenny, as is their wont in Almere.

**And then it is Monday, departure day.** The morning is used to add the finishing touches to the painting. Then one last walk to Casarão Velho to **share a meal (6)**. By four o'clock the minivans are waiting. We're hugging, waving, together with Jopie and Barend, who are staying on for another week. The days have simply rushed by. Thank you Gien, Afra and Anneloes, José, Marise, Henriëtte, Ine, Rina, Paula and Jos, Monique and Eric, Marja and Kees and Jenny. See you next time.

Nel, Wynand, Lies and Bas

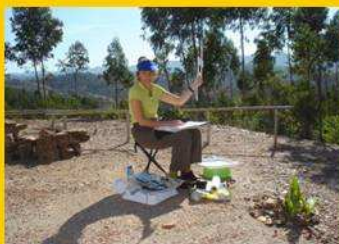
## 1. THE FIRST DAY



## 2. ON YOUR OWN HILL



## 3. AMONG THE RUINS



## 4. THE DAY OUT



## 5. THE REVIEW



## 6. SHARE A MEAL

