

# MONTE DO CASARÃO

Holiday accommodation in the Alentejo, Portugal

# Newsletter 38

November 1 2015, rain, 14°



## SUMMER HAS BEEN AND GONE

The meteorological summer ended a month ago, the clocks have been readjusted to standard time, the days are shortening and the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is behind us.



Once again, our guests have spoilt us, by being who they are, and by spoiling us. They brought extra mature Dutch cheese, liquorice, syrup waffles, a Dutch delicacy, chocolate tulips, currant buns and much besides. We had animated conversations, cheerful diner parties, beautiful walks, and piano recitals. Swimming was a favourite pastime (thanks to very warm weather from April onwards), as well as surfing and dolphin spotting, fishing, Pilates, a night at a pop festival and a night in the Middle Ages. Now and again, there were small worries, like a car that wouldn't start or a visit to the GP. Nothing serious, luckily. All in all, we had a wonderful summer, with nothing but lovely guests, including pleasant children, both large and small. On the other hand, the guests had a great time as well. This becomes clear from all the postcards we received, the feedback on the website, the e-mails and pictures. Five-year-old Boris thought so too. When he came home, he was disappointed, saying, 'I like the other house in Portugal much better than this one.' I could kiss them. Each and every one.

## INTERNET DISCUSSION

Around this time of year, while we're working on the strategy for the year to come, our Internet discussion crops up again: do we include Internet access in our prices or not? It may be out-dated to charge a separate fee. Internet access has become a commodity and is part of the service offered. However, we have experienced that a substan-



tial part of our guests enjoys not being online for once, leaving the humdrum of everyday life behind them and spending more time together. That's why we continue to allow you to choose in 2016: Internet access is available, but it's up to you and your fellow travellers to decide whether you want to be online. If not, you don't pay for it either. That way, we don't have to include the costs of Internet access in the rent.

## PINGO DOCE

The majority of our guests flies to Faro Airport. It stands to reason, as it is the nearest airport and by the back route, you can reach Monte do Casarão in 90 minutes. If you take that route, you need to take into account that you don't pass any villages or shops. Laying in food supplies on your way up is not an option.

At least, it wasn't, until recently.

Not too long ago, a chain store of Pingo Doce, one of the largest supermarket chains in Portugal, opened up next to the airport. Immediately after negotiating the roundabout with the plane spotting statues, you take the parallel road. After a few hundreds of meters, just beyond Hotel 3K, you see the Pingo Doce.



So you can do your shopping if you want to. You don't have to. We'll stick to our good habit of providing a welcome basket, so that you can delay thinking about what you need to lay in. Alternatively, you can share a meal with us on your arrival day. It's easy as well as enjoyable.

## FISHING IN AZENHA DO MAR

Just before you get to Carvalhal, the favourite beach for many of our guests, Azenha do Mar is signposted. Azenha do Mar is a tiny fishing village consisting of a few houses, a couple of boats, a few fishing sheds and a small harbour. Not the place where you'd expect a fish auction. And you'd certainly not expect to find a really well



equipped fishing tackle shop next to the fish auction. Bait, fishing tackle, keep nets, lines, anything you need to go fishing is for sale here. Obviously, casting out in the ocean is a whole new adventure. And the fish are eager to bite. Bringing your catch home and putting it onto the barbecue completes the adventure. If this doesn't grab you, eating fish in the widely recommended fish restaurant in Azenha do Mar is a good alternative. It seems as if all Portugal dines there. Therefore, it is often very busy. Sometimes, you're in for a long wait, as you can't book a table in advance. Another special experience.

Nel

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If you are planning to come our way next summer, we advise to make a reservation as soon as possible. July is starting to fill up. Also, you can profit from an attractive discount. If you book before January, you pay the 2015 price.

