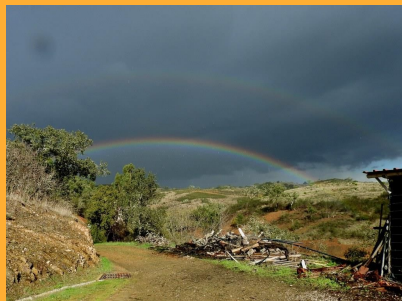


December 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, rain, 17°

## IT'S RAINING



It's raining. Well, actually, it's pouring. Luckily, there are no guests. They wouldn't like it, while we are really chuffed. As soon as the rain stops, we rush out to the reservoir to see by how much the water level has risen. The stream is running, so things are progressing fast. Last month, some rain had fallen, but that didn't get us very far. However, we did see even then that the reservoir held back the water, which was a pleasant observation. After all, there could have been a leak somewhere.



[www.montedocasarao.com](http://www.montedocasarao.com)

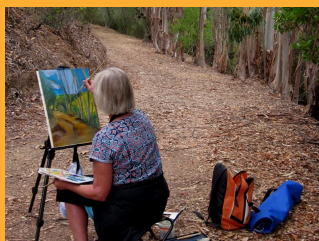
[info@montedocasarao.com](mailto:info@montedocasarao.com)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h82mYBohfc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h82mYBohfc)

## Painting weeks 2017

You can only register for the painting week in April (13 - 20 April).

The October painting week is full up.



## Foreigners in Concelho Odemira

Dutch 115  
British 70  
Germans 364  
Thai 812  
Chinese 44  
Swiss 27  
Indians 88  
Ukrainians 205  
Nepalese 229  
Guineans 29  
Bulgarians 1071  
Moldavians 91  
Cubans 21  
Rumanians 275  
Brazilians 210  
Others 225

The concelho Odemira (1720 km<sup>2</sup>) is the largest municipality in the Beja district in the province of Alentejo. Odemira is divided into 13 freguesias (civil parishes) including São Teotónio. The capital of the municipality of Odemira is also called Odemira.

As soon as the reservoir is filled – we do hope this will be next spring – we'll have a sardine party, which is an old tradition in these parts. Neighbours and friends are invited, and the contractor brings his staff. We'll drag the barbecue to the reservoir, roast sardines, pour some wine and serve them with fresh Alentejan bread. Simple but scrumptious. The contractor has promised to bring a present. Fishes. Achigãs, i.e. largemouth bass. Live ones, to be exact. They'll go into the reservoir.

## MULTICULTURAL

Nepalese, Bulgarians, Ukrainians, Chinese, Indians: a number of years they are all part of the normal streetscape in São Teotónio. There are Chinese mini-department stores; there is a Nepalese grocer's, a Bulgarian travel agent's. Also, there is a dedicated temping agency for foreigners, the majority of whom are working in the fast-growing fruit production sector. São Teotónio is not the only freguesia in the municipality of Odemira that has migrants, but it may rightfully use the designation *cosmopolitana*: by now, São Teotónio boasts approximately 20 nationalities. 25% of the school children are of foreign origin.



In order to further integration, the municipality of Odemira has founded CLAIM, the Local Centre for Furthering the Integration of Foreigners, funded by the municipality and by fruit producers (50-50). Apart from various educational programmes for young and old (focussing primarily on learning Portuguese) a lot of attention is given to culture and sports: the first intercultural football competition is over and done with

(won by Los Brutos) and by half November, there was the spectacular theatrical event about the search of the people of Bú for their new fatherland, in which all inhabitants of the municipality were invited to participate. The Odemira approach has great potential for success, as it is based on proven practice. The Portuguese know what's it's like to live in a foreign country like no one else.

## COFFEE

Portugal has lovely coffees. Everyone who has ever been to Portugal knows that. Sometimes, it may be difficult to know whether to order a bica a duplo or an abatanado, but you'll learn. The coffee tradition dates back from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the first coffee-roasting houses were introduced in Lisbon. But then, there was no lack of coffee. High-quality coffees came from the colonies, from Brazil, Angola and Timor.



Coffee is usually drunk outside the home, in a café or a pastelaria. The all serve one of the well-known Portuguese coffee brands: Delta, Sical, Buondi, Chave d'Ouro, to name just a few. I just finished a wonderful book about coffee, about Peet, who was born in the Dutch town of Alkmaar and had but one passion: coffee. In 1955, he moved to America, where he started a coffee revolution. He knew everything there was to know about coffee and was willing to share his knowledge with anyone. He inspired the founders of Starbucks and helped make it a major brand. The Dutch title is called *De man die de wereld leerde koffiedrinken*, written by Jasper Houtman, who has been trying to find funding for an English translation, so mark that name.

## CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas is back. He does not (yet) have as busy a programme as *Sinterklaas*, who had to show himself in every Dutch village and town last week, but he is just as welcome. Here, you celebrate Christmas with the entire family. On Christmas Eve, bacalhau is on the menu. And the Bolo Rei is not lacking either. A Christmas tree is not a usual feature, but a crib is. The children address their wish lists to Pai Natal, i.e. Father Christmas, or the child Jesus. Touching.



This is the last newsletter of 2016. It remains for me to wish you Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017.

Nel