



February 1st 2008, cloudy 19°C

CONTENTS

1. carnival in Loulé
2. mill walkies
3. harvesting chanterelles
4. baa, baa, bad sheep
5. frost, mist and rain

Our adress in Portugal:

Monte do Casarão
Lugar Pomba
Caixa Postal 5578
PT 7630-568 SÃO TEOTÓNIO
Portugal
Tel. +351 283 959 985

www.a-hill-of-your-own.com

* l.schimmer@montedocasarao.com
* n.schimmer@montedocasarao.com
* w.riemslag@montedocasarao.com

Do you know anyone else who might be interested in our newsletter? Please let us know through subscribe@montedocasarao.com

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please send an email to unsubscribe@montedocasarao.com

1. CARNIVAL IN LOULÉ

Foreigners may be inclined to associate Loulé with soccer, but locally, the Loulé carnival procession is a household word. For three days – this year on February 3, 4 and 5 (when the al-



mond trees are in bloom, as the people of Loulé put it) – the revellers traverse the streets and this otherwise sleepy town succumbs to a frenzy of delight. Loulé has the oldest carnival procession of Portugal (the first one dates back to 1906). Up to a hundred thousand visitors are expected to join in the fun.

2. MILL WALKIES

The Alejento is a true Eldorado for walkers and hikers. To prevent anyone milling around, we have mapped a number of walks on and around Monte do Casarão, starting from your very own casa. One of these walks takes you to the wind mill. It may take your breath away, but you will get there. If the miller is in, you can admire the interior as well.



3. HARVESTING CHANTERELLES

As is the case in many rural communities, Monte do Casarão is subject to a right of way. Normally this is hardly ever used, but recently it has been

a lot busier than usual. We found out why: it's the peak of the chanterelle season and Monte



do Casarão is loaded with them. And not just with chanterelles, but with other fungi as well, such as boletes

and russula, not to mention the trametes versicolor. The endless marvels of nature! We have counted at least thirty species, in all colours, shapes and sizes. We cannot tell you all their names, since we don't know the first thing about them. To be completely safe, so far we have left the chanterelles alone as well.

4. BAA, BAA, BAD SHEEP

Every now and again, the neighbour's sheep take lunch with us. They know where the grass is tasty. The problem is that they do not stick to grass, but stay for seconds: tomato plants, rose mallow and the tops of the olive trees we took such pains to plant. We end up running about to chase them off the terrace.



The dogs are happy to do their bit, but we are inclined to discourage them.

5. FROST, MIST AND RAIN

Monte do Casarão is not always ba(s)king in the hot sun. Every now and again – especially in the winter – the weather is 'turbulent' as the weathermen put it. After heavy rainfall, Monte



do Casarão suddenly abounds in streams that gurgle and precipitate from the mountain. We have night frost too. Quite a few plants do not live to tell the tale. Also, it can be quite misty, but that usually doesn't take long. It does yield lovely pictures, like the one of spider webs in a tree (picture top left).

And the winner is...

Among our 2007 guests we put up a week's free stay on Monte do Casarão for raffle. The winner is the De Man family from Holland. We're looking forward to seeing them back in 2008. Our raffle continues this year, so you might be the lucky winner in 2009.