



May 5 2008, some clouds 26°C

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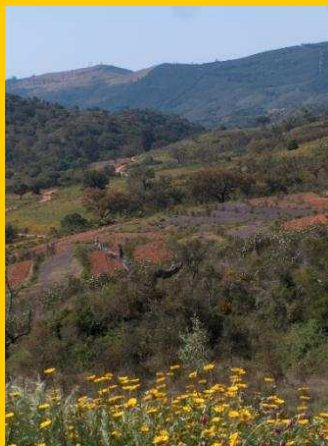
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### 1. STILL LOVING IT

Can you imagine? This has been the view from our house for the last year. The cottages have similar views. Due to their higher position, their perspectives are slightly different. Early every morning, I drink my coffee on the terrace, and feast my senses. I enjoy the sounds nature produces, the colours and the smells of eucalyptus and cistus, lavender and sage. Our guests have the same experience: many people who were here last year, booked again for 2008!



### 2. REVOLUÇÃO DOS CRAVOS

April 25, Freedom Day, is a national holiday in Portugal. In very village and town the last weekend of April passed in a whirl of festivities and fireworks, to celebrate that in 1974, 48 years of dictatorship ended without bloodshed. The so-called Carnation Revolution was initiated by the army captains who were fed up with costly and deadly wars in the African



colonies. General Antonio de Spínola soon introduced democracy and a year later, on April 25 1975, he called free elections. 92% of the population voted and Mario Soares, who had been living in exile until then, was declared the winner.

### 3. LAST OF THE ORANGES

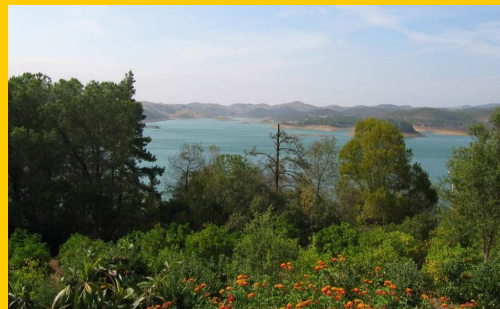
Real free range eggs and free range pigs (well, long range, actually), fresh bread, pick-your-own oranges, home-made honey and marmalade, Alentejan wines: this is paradise for anyone who loves pure and honest food. The days of the oranges may be counted, but now we can eat asparagus again. We have been sowing and planting as well. Our neighbour plowed a plot of land for us, so if all works out

well, you will enjoy Monte do Casarão tomatoes and Monte do Casarão potatoes.



### 4. SANTA CLARA

Nothing beats cooling down in the water when it's hot. You can take a dip in the pool or in the ocean. Apart from that, there are some lovely lakes close by. One of them is the barragem of Santa Clara, content: 485.000.000 m3. This is the largest reservoir in Portugal. The water is warm and clean. Tourists are few and far between. If you want to view the reservoir from the top and maybe have a spot of



tea or dinner, you can drive to the poussada. The view from the terrace is more than worth it.

### 5. SOCK SPOILER

We own two dogs: Sproet ('Freckle') is 1 year old and Portuguese, Willem is 12 years old and Dutch. They soon got used to each other and now they are still inseparable. Early in the morning, Sproet pulls Willem out of the basket by his ears. Come on, Willem, let's look for pussy cats! And off they go. They will set off together and often stay away for hours at a stretch. We have it on good authority that Sproet has the makings of a good hound, but we haven't trained her as such. Of course, she still has her hunting instinct: every sock is considered prey and will be expertly spoiled in a matter of seconds. We'll have plenty of rags for the time being. And precious few socks.

