



July 24 2008, Sunny 31°

## CONTENTS

1. Route Monte do Casarão
2. Praia da Amália
3. new neighbours
4. summer of sports
5. surfing filosofer

Our address in Portugal is:

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](http://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](mailto:subscribe@montedocasarao.com)

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please send an email to [unsubscribe@montedocasarao.com](mailto:unsubscribe@montedocasarao.com)

## 1. ROUTE MONTE DO CASARÃO

It certainly made a change, hearing the roar of heavy trucks, steam roller, watering carts and tractors for a week. After the preliminary work had been done in December, now both the access road and the road on the estate are in perfect order. Even in a downpour we can drive up without slipsliding away. The municipality supplied the equipment and the man-



power, we stood surety for the *toutvenant*, a kind of ground charbon. Everybody happy.

## 2. PRAIA DA AMÁLIA

One of the beaches close by is called Praia da Amália. The Queen of Fado, Amália Rodrigues (1920-1999), had a cottage there and spent many a holiday by the sea. Fado has long been in bad odour in Portugal, as the fadistas were associated with Salazar's dictatorship. In 1980, Amália, who for many years had been scoring triumphs in famous concert halls abroad, was awarded a number of national prizes. Since then, fado 'is allowed' once more and counts as an acknowledged singing technique associated with big names. And to answer a question asked by one of our guests: the Coimbra fado differs from the Lisbon fado in that the former is sung exclusively by men and contains more vibrations and trills.



## 3. NEW NEIGHBOURS

Suddenly, from one day to another, we have been presented with forty cattle for neighbours. They are beautiful tan cows, wearing bells around their necks. There are calves, some lanky adolescents, mothers and aunties and one actual bull. Twice a day, the

farmer arrives, accompanied by his dogs, to take them to another foraging address, but I really don't think they are too appreciative. They are mooing all the way. Our dogs, three by now (details to follow later) are intrigued



by them but keep a safe distance. We have more new neighbours: a swallow couple built a nest in the garage, using the electrical cable

leading to the neon light. (see photo top left).

## 4. SUMMER OF SPORTS

The European Championship is slowly sinking into oblivion and the Portuguese are beginning to look forward to yet another sporting highlight: the 2008 Olympics in Beijing next month. Portugal first competed in the Summer Olympic Games in 1912 and has participated



without interruption since, winning 3 golds, 6 silvers and 11 bronzes in a wide variety of sports. This year, Athletics draws most Portuguese sportspersons to China: 12 men and 17 women. Cycling, Equestrian, Sailing and Swimming bring in more modest crews and with other sports we'll be cheering individuals. Too bad that Surfing is not on the programme (see below).

## 5. SURFING PHILOSOPHER

My son Bas recently graduated from Rotterdam University. For two years he attended philosophy classes at Lisbon University. Therefore, it's not surprising his thesis was about a Portuguese subject: the poet Fernando Pessoa. He is now going all out to be able to attain his Ph.D. Meanwhile, he's become all but indispensable on Monte do Casarão. Apart from that, he's a qualified surfing teacher, so if your children or yourself wish to learn how to surf, he's the right man to see about a board.

