

Dec. 15 2018, cloudy, 17°
(in the sun 25°)



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

info@montedocasaraao.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVtr-TOeEcc&feature=youtu.be

Painting weeks 2019

The painting week in April
(April 11 - April 18) is
fully booked.

In the week in October
(3 - 10)
there are still some places
available.

[https://
www.montedocasaraao.com/
en/guestbook/painting-
holiday-portugal/](https://www.montedocasaraao.com/en/guestbook/painting-holiday-portugal/)

NEW: 10 KILOMETRES OF HIKING PATHS

At Monte do Casarão, we have gained about 10 kilometres of hiking paths. Add them to the kilometres we already had and you'll know that you won't have to go out of your way to have a good walk around here.

Some paths are new, for instance the monkey trail (easy) and the three-hill-trail (pleasantly tough). Others were totally overgrown with blackberry and cistus and have been cleared. The fun part is that, from your house on the hill, you now have three options to strike out, into nature.



The longest walk takes up about two hours. You can do longer walks (even for days) too, leaving our estate. The possibilities are endless. I have taken a great many walks. With guests, by myself, with Wynand or Bas. And with Saar obviously. She's always by my side. In the mornings, before it gets too hot. There is no better way to start the day.

TREES FULL OF FAT BALLS

The olive trees are full of olives, but this year, I have left most of them. Much to the displeasure of Fernanda, our cleaning lady, I must say. I still have enough left over from last year. Wynand made an attempt to make olive oil, but that project failed. A heavy press for domestic use is not for sale, and the old-fashioned way of cooking, squashing and scooping off the oil is not very successful either. Besides, it makes you very dirty, and everything is greasy and black. Taking the olives to a cooperation is not an option, either. You need to contribute a minimum of 300 kilos, and we don't have quite as much as that.



The olives will be left for the birds, as a welcome addition to their winter diet. Due to intensive olive growing, the birds in the large olive orchards are having a hard time. The olives are harvested in the night time, using heavy machinery, and the birds overwintering in the trees die by dozens. What a mess we make of the world.

BIG LAND CLEARING OPERATION 2

All the eucalyptus trees around Casa Boa and Casa Marcanta have been cut. They had to be. On the one hand, because of new legislation regarding maintenance, on the other hand, because we feared they might be blown over in a great storm and fall on the roof.



Mister Gomes is one of few specialists in the field of felling eucalyptus trees. He prefers to work alone. Therefore, he is terribly busy, and he had another job lined up when he'd finished with Marcanta and Boa. At that next job, he sawed into his leg, resulting in an arterial haemorrhage and, subsequently, in a broken leg. He was in hospital for a month and a half, but fortunately he is on the mend.

When he will come back to work at Casa Basta and Casa Valorosa is unclear. For now, we refrain from asking. Whenever we see him, we chat and inquire about his health. That's all, until further notice.

DRILLING PLANS ABANDONED FOR NOW

Environmental movements, municipalities concerned and stakeholder organisations (bird protection, surfing federation, fishing communities, etc.) can heave sighs of relief. Following various court cases, the plans of energy giants Galp (Portugal) and ENI (Italy) to drill for oil off the coast of Alentejo have been provisionally called off. In a press release dated the end of October, both companies pretended the drilling plans have been completely abandoned, but PALP (Plataforma Algarve Livre de Petróleo) suspects there is actually a snag. According to the website of the Ministry of Energy and Geology, the agreements made continue to stand.



PALP has come into existence in 2015 and was founded to safeguard both the Algarve and the rest of Portugal against the search for and exploitation of fossil fuels. PALP managed to bar 6 out of 11 concessions (2 on land, 4 at sea, south of the Algarve), however, 3 off the Alentejo coast, plus 2 in south are still standing. Reason enough for PALP to continue fighting. "A luta contra o furo não está vencida!"

This is the last newsletter of this year. I wish you happy holidays and masses of happiness and contentment in 2019.

Nel

They were here during the autumn holiday: Margriet, Bas, Loes and Mies from Haarlem, winners of the 2017 New Year Lottery.



"Hurray! So it was not a fake prize after all!"