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## HENK IS INJURED

Henk, Saar's friend, who was the neighbour's dog, until we recently bought him for 32 euros, has been hit by a car. It's his own fault. He likes nothing better than running all out next to and in front of cars. Some cars drive very fast, and then things go wrong.



In the Santiago do Cacém hospital they diagnosed a broken hind leg. They couldn't see to him there, so off to Lisbon. The operation took 4 hours. 10 days later, he turned out to have broken his shoulder as well, so back to Lisbon. Now, he is full of steel. He is not doing all that well yet. In 6 weeks' time, X-rays are in order. Maybe, they will establish whether our bionic dog will be allowed to run again. But please, not in front of cars, will you, Henk!

## COVID 19

We are doing fine. Actually, our life hasn't changed that much. We are used to living in isolation, including longer periods when we don't see that many people; we have plenty of space, we don't have to stay indoors, and we always have plenty to do. Financially, things may become more difficult. Luckily, we can still rely on our pension. Not knowing, what was in store for us, we spent quite a bit of money, for instance on a gigantic trampoline for our young guests.



Portugal adheres to the same strict regime as the Netherlands and the UK. It may even be stronger. Very soon after the first confirmed infection on March 2, various measures have come into force. Schools have closed, events have been cancelled, hairdressers and other professionals doing physical work are not allowed to work, access to supermarkets and DIY stores is sparse (you need to wait outdoors until you may enter), air traffic has ground to a halt, a quick visit to the beach is forbidden, and so on and so forth. Extra measures apply for Easter. Travelling is absolutely forbidden. You have to remain within your own municipality. Until today, Portugal has 16,585 infected people and 504 people have died, largely in the north and in and around Lisbon. The Alentejo has 139 confirmed infections, 31 of which are in the Alentejo Litoral and 3 in the municipality of Odemira. Obviously, we have no guests. The people who booked will come in September. Likewise, the painting week has been cancelled. We will have to postpone our introduction to the new painting tutor till October.



What compensates all this for us is that our middle son Mark and his family managed to get one of the last flights. He has set up his office in one of the empty houses. Teun and Gijs are taught by mother Anne on a daily basis, and during the breaks and the weekends, everybody visits grandma and granddad, jumps on the trampoline, cycles, walks and plays Rumikub.

I sincerely hope that everyone who reads this manages to hold on. We are still facing uncertain times. Good luck everybody.

## MESTRE DANIEL DA LUZ

The old municipal mercado has been put to a new use, a tribute to a much respected inhabitant of São Teotónio. It has become the workshop of Mestre Daniel da Luz, keeper and builder of the viola campaniça, i.e., the traditional Alentejan guitar, the instrument accompanying the Cante Alentejano.



Mestre Daniel da Luz has spent his whole life building various string instruments. Until he discovered the viola campaniça. Since his 57th, he has made countless numbers of them. All by hand. One instrument takes him about 70 hours. You can witness it all personally. On Saturday mornings, his workshop is open to the public and everyone may enter. Well, late, obviously. When everything is back to normal.

## HIS FIRST DUCATI

What do you get when you turn 70? A Ducati of course. For your vineyard and your veggie plot. You cannot dig and plough by hand here, a motorised hand tractor works better. First, our neighbour Fernando does the rough work with his cultivator, but then, it's down to the finer details. Even between the rows of vines, the weeds need weeding. Obviously, it needs to look well. We have to keep up appearances.



The vines are doing well. The Alicante-Bouschet, the Tourigo Nacional, the Syrah, the Chardonnay, the Sauvignon Blanc: the buds are fit to burst. We also have some grapes for eating, but they are lagging behind. Last year, Wynand picked all the grapes to give the vines the opportunity to fill out. And it worked. We are expecting to bottle our own wine this year, the Vinho do Casarão. It's a bit unnerving. As people here say: anyone can make wine. Making a good wine, that's the hard part.

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