

September 3rd 2020, 34°



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www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVtrTOeEcc&feature=youtu.be

Good news for people who want to paint in October.

There is still one cottage available.

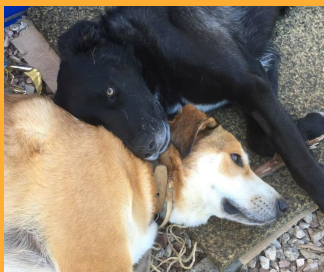
Suitable for 4 friends or two or three, or one or two couples.

As you know: non-painting partners are equally welcome.

From 30 September to 7 October.

HENK IS ON THE MEND

All-in all, Henk has had three operations. A few weeks following the operation on his lower leg, his shoulder turned out to be broken as well, so back to the surgeon we went. However, his walking did not improve. Then the metal was removed from his lower leg. We think the metal in his shoulder is bothering him as well. That will need to come out too. But not just yet. Henk hasn't learned anything from his accident. He's still running in front of and behind cars. Stupid animal.



IN TIMES OF CORONA

The Portuguese government has commissioned an extensive protocol for tourism businesses, regarding hygiene in relation to the Covid-19 virus. What you need to have at your disposal (face masks, aprons, plastic gloves, disinfectants, disposable cleaning wipes, 70 % rubbing alcohol, thermometer); what you need to clean (don't forget the remote control for the television and the light switches!); how to clean and with what; on which temperature you must was hand when; that you must keep all the windows and doors open for at least three hours prior to the arrival of the next guests; how much distance you need to keep by the swimming pool: everything is described in detail.



We are free of corona. Literally, but also figuratively. That's how our guests experience their stay as well. When you are in your own cottage on your own mountain, corona seems to belong to another world. There is nobody anywhere near. Just sun, a breeze, laziness, small walks... However, when you visit a shop or restaurant you do need to wear a face mask. Don't forget, they are pretty strict here.

A REAL CASARÃO

The grapes are doing well. A bit too well, actually. There are far more than we had planned, and they are ripe a lot quicker. In vintner terms: the sugar level should not rise any further.



This is making Wynand nervous. Suddenly, all kinds of decisions must be taken about matters that are still inconclusive. What do you need to make a half-decent wine? How many barrels must you buy? How big should they be? Should you buy plastic or inox barrels? How do you press the grapes and when? Where do you store the lot?

The darkest hour is just before dawn. Our neighbour, a vintner and wine researcher, found his crop had failed. He wants to buy our surplus of grapes. Then, there is a better deal: the neighbour gets the grapes for free and

shares his knowledge advice and equipment with Wynand. A better example of a win-win situation is hard to imagine. The first litres of sauvignon blanc and chardonnay are fermenting. Soon, the red grapes will be picked, the Portuguese grapes, for a real Casarão! Until then, our falcon-shaped *scarybird*, will chase away the Iberian magpies.

OUR YOUNG GUESTS

The Playmobil, the toy cars, the Lego, the inflatable animals, the scoops, the Suske & Wiske comics, the movies and games: everything has been cleared away. The school holidays are over. No more young voices and screams at the pool, no more yells at the trampoline.

They always have a whale of a time, our young holidaymakers. Whether they are 2 or 18 years old: they all find something they like. Hugging the dogs, having a ride on the tractor, picking strawberries, cutting stones from the mountain: the sky is the limit. And there is the Internet. Very important, obviously.



In the evenings, the trampoline is transformed into a hangout. Chilling until midnight in the pitch-dark, after a dive in the pool – what's not to like?

Maybe we should install some solar lamps. Or would that make it less fun? Lamps by the pool is a good idea. Must add it to the list.

PORTUGAL IN THE NEWS

What's going on in Portugal seldom makes the news in the north of Europe. Its politics, culture, or – like now – the Covid-19 situation are only sporadically talked or written about. Its history is paid even less attention. Still, it may be worth your while to know more about the country where you may take your holiday.

Portuguese is a tricky language, so following the news and developments through the Portuguese media is hardly feasible.

The Portugal News may be the solution. This English-language newspaper has been in circulation since 1977.

Especially now, in view of all the developments and figures regarding the corona-virus, it may be useful to have first-hand information.

Portugal Resident is another English-language newspaper, which focusses more on the Algarve. After all, many Britons are resident in the Algarve and

many Britons consider the Algarve to be an attractive holiday destination. England and Portugal have an historical affinity, but that's another story.

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