

January 11th 2022, sun 22°

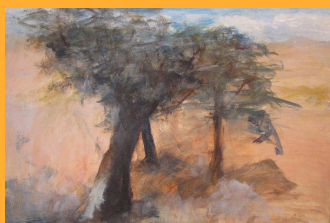


www.a-hill-of-your-own.com
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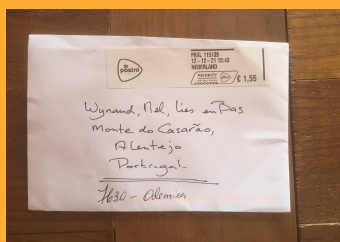
info@montedocasarao.com

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=TVtrTOeEcc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVtrTOeEcc&feature=youtu.be)

In 2022, the painting weeks
run from
Wednesday 13 April to
Wednesday 20 April
and from
Wednesday 28 September
to Wednesday October



The mail from the Netherlands is a disaster. Parcels fail to arrive – we suspect post.nl does not deliver if you have a mailbox – letters get lost on a regular basis or arrive weeks later. However, sometimes miracles do



happen. We are sure it's thanks to a post office employee who enjoys a puzzle.

2022: ANOTHER UNCERTAIN YEAR?

The weather is great. At night the temperature is around freezing point, but during the day it is about 25°C. Last week was even warmer. The period before that was rainy. Unfortunately, it didn't rain enough. The reservoirs, including Santa Clara, are filled for less than 40%.



Like every year, we shall have to wait and see what the new year brings. Will we finally get rid of that virus? can our guests finally come to this wonderful spot without any more fuss and doubts? Let's hope so. At any rate, I wish you a happy and healthy 2022.

THE COURT CASE

It looked amazing, the 'new' engine for Bas's van. It had been revised. Silver-coloured and shiny. Bas was over the moon. However, when the mechanic in the garage wanted to mount the engine, things turned out to look far less rosy. The engine had been given a shiny new paint layer, no more. It had not been revised at all. Following endless discussions with the supplier, we appealed to Deco Proteste, the Portuguese association for consumer protection. They were interested and eventually the case led to legal action. It was a real three-hour court case. Not live, actually, as corona measures precluded our attendance, but through Zoom. Wynand, Bas, our mechanic and our lawyer attended, as did the other party's lawyer and a judge. We were well-prepared and after the session we expected a favourable result. Still, being in the right does not automatically mean the judge sees it that way. The outcome was uncertain. Fourteen days later, on 20 December, we heard the judge had found for Bas: he won! That was lucky! Now, all he has to do is wait for his money to be paid back, but I'm confident that will work out as well.



OUR FIRST GUESTS

In newsletter 30 dated 6 March 2013, I wrote a bit about our guests from the very beginning Maureen and Andre Heuzer. By then, they had spent ten holidays on Monte do Casarão. Last November, they spent their 25th holiday

with us, and now they will no longer come to stay. They may drop in for a coffee, though. They have retired from their jobs, sold their home, and have become the proud owners of a home with 8 hectares of land that mainly contains fruit trees, smack in the middle of Portugal.

Their arrival in November last was not planned. The run-up to their new place was not quite so auspicious, and when they were finally due to sign the contract of sale, their car broke down. Organising a towing service for a large van containing four dogs was not so simple. It took nearly a day before they were back here, and the contract was still unsigned.



In spite of various bad experiences, they have been at their new destinations for a couple of weeks. The van is still standing in our garage, but otherwise things are more or less fine. They are completely happy. You can read about all their adventures on www.heuzer.nl

STOFFEL

Many of you have met him: Stoffel, Lies's dog. Stoffel has passed away. We had to have him put to sleep. His health simply got too bad. You keep hoping his heart will give out, but life, or death, doesn't work like that. The vet came here. Luckily, Stoffel was spared being dragged around at the end. He has slipped into his last sleep while in his own familiar surroundings. Stoffel has probably been here since 2005. At least, we have photos of a puppy that looked uncannily like Stoffel. He has had to fend for himself for at least two years, catching the occasional rabbit or mouse, probably. He ate blackberries too. When we started building in 2006, he was thrown titbits by the builders when they were having their lunches. A habit he kept up for a very long time, switching to begging from the gardener later on. Once he came to stay with us permanently – we knew there was a dog, but it was always chased away by Willem and Sproet - he turned out to be very ill. Lyme's disease. He never fully recovered and in the last years of his life he limped more and more. Still, he was always sweet-natured, jolly, happy, and enterprising, and he has survived them all: Willem and Sproet, Joris, Lotje, Wammes and Sofie. Farewell, sweet Stoffel, we will not forget you.



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