



Mediterranean Gardening Association – Portugal

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE PLANTAS E JARDINS EM CLIMAS MEDITERRÂNICOS

www.mediterraneangardeningportugal.org

INTERNATIONAL SPRING CONFERENCE APRIL 2019

Bringing the Mediterranean Landscape into your Garden **Optional Garden Visits - April 5 Friday**

Depending on numbers - all visits subject to confirmation of costs and timing. Further information available from mgapconference@gmail.com

April 5 Friday full day - Depart Muralhas Hotel by bus 9.00 return 17.30 Guides: Gerald Luckhurst & Marion ter Horst **Cost per person includes lunch, drinks and all entry costs**

Quinta das Vidigueiras the private garden of Gil, Conde de Monsaraz. 40 km from Évora, 25ha of farmland surround 3ha of garden. This mature landscaped garden was first designed in the 1940's by renowned Landscape Architect Francisco Caldeira Cabral who was a pioneer of the Portuguese Environmental Movement. His involvement lasted through to 1960 as he had developed a close working relationship with the then owners, the Conde and Condessa de Monsaraz.

The garden was designed in relation to his concept of "*Continuum Naturale*" and a walk through the high hedges dividing the spaces of the garden gives access to areas planted in a natural style with trees and shrubs and some more formal parterre style areas. There are some ancient olive trees and a new development for farming organic lavenders. The cool shade is welcome on a warm sunny day typical of this region and the atmosphere is one of calm retreat from the baking golden plains surrounding the property. The garden is rarely open so we are very grateful to Marion ter Horst for making the arrangements for our visit. There are historic buildings on site but the visit is to the garden only.

Lunch at Restaurante Sem-Fim, Telheiro, Monsaraz. A *sem-fim* is a machine shaped like a screw that takes the olives to the mixer and mill to make olive oil. Gil Kalisvaart bought the old Lagar do Telheiro and kept many of the machines that had not succumbed to time. He created a space of well-being, an art gallery with good eating, so the Restaurant was born. <http://www.sem-fim.com>

Afternoon - boat trip with Captain Tiago on Alqueva Lake for island visit and guided wildflower walk – the Alqueva Lake is a reservoir created in 2002, reaching the full level in 2010. It provides electricity and irrigation water to the surrounding area and is one of the largest artificial lakes in western Europe, 250 sq km (97 sq mi). <http://www.visitevora.net/en/alqueva-alentejo-portugal/>



The island wildflower walk should be near peak flowering time and a selection from this area is shown here - <http://flora-on.pt/index.php#/1perto%3a38.4439+-7.5758> We also plan to visit the newly planted project being developed by Gerald Luckhurst at Horta da Veiga for a drought tolerant Mediterranean garden.

The return route to Évora will include a visit to the spectacular hill top mediaeval town of Monsaraz. A lovely castle with small formal garden has wonderful views out over the lakes and surrounding countryside and on into Spain. If time allows, or if we have inclement weather, the group will visit a traditional Alentejo weaving factory in Reguengos - Fabrica Alentejana de Lanifícios.

<http://mizzete.pt>



Return to Hotel at approx. 17.30

Guides: Marion ter Horst (a longtime MGS member and former branch head) and husband Arnold ter Horst are a retired Dutch couple having lived in the North and Middle of Portugal for 36 years. They enjoy organising short visits to many parts of Portugal to encourage and raise interest in local gardening, agriculture, gastronomy and small businesses in that field.

Gerald Luckhurst - Horticulturist & Landscape Architect. He is an expert plantsman with an unrivalled knowledge of sub-tropical flora. Consultant to the Parques de Sintra (Historic Gardens of Monserrate and Pena) and acts as a Historic Gardens consultant and tour guide. He has designed and built many gardens in Portugal and Madeira. Author of "Sintra, a landscape with villas" (1988) & 'The Gardens of Madeira' (Nov. 2010).



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Optional Alentejo Visits – Monday 8 April

Depending on numbers - all visits subject to confirmation of costs and timing. Further information available from mgapconference@gmail.com

April 8 Monday full day - Depart Muralhas Hotel by bus 9.00 return 17.30

Guides: Marion & Arnold ter Horst Cost includes lunch and all entry costs per person



Quinta do Quetzal winery is set in the heart of the Alentejo wine region on the rich slopes of Vidigueira. Built in 2006 on one of the hills overlooking the small town of Vila de Frades, the winery exemplifies contemporary design and efficiency. Old vineyards were renovated and new vines were planted. The winery, with its sublime modern architecture rising out of the landscape, uses state-of-the-art technology combined with natural forces of gravity to create the unique conditions responsible for the production and aging of wines of excellence. Our visit will include a guided tasting of wines selected especially for you and a visit to the winery and Art Centre. There is also a small shop selling a colourful range of textiles and local products.

Surrounding the winery, restaurant and art gallery is a very new Mediterranean theme garden with old olive trees and mixed planting including herbs for the restaurant and local plants. The garden flows along the slopes with blocks of silver foliage and some flowering plants for impact. <https://quintadoquetzal.com>

Lunch will be taken at Quetzal Restaurant, delicious, healthy and rustic food, inspired by the Alentejo cuisine. Full-flavoured seasonal ingredients are the key elements for the dishes. Meals are served with love and dedication in a relaxed atmosphere. From the restaurant you have stunning views over the estate. There is a wonderful polychrome tile panel depicting the Quetzal bird, emblem of the estate.



Alcaçovas – a charming small town with its roots on the “Via Romana”, the ancient route between Évora and Alcácer do Sal. A visit to the historic Paço dos Henriques with its connections to the Portuguese Royal family and the amazing Capela das Conchas with antique Chinese and Portuguese plates and shells decorating the small chapel. The charming garden has recently been extensively restored, there are water channels, magnificent ceramics and shell decorative panels both inside and outside. A small Museum demonstrates the art of cow bell making.

Be Aromatic organic herb nursery is dedicated to the production of aromatic, medicinal and culinary plants in an area of 3 hectares. Their work is based on a great respect for the environment and the use of sustainable agricultural practices. The visit will include a walk on site together with a visit to the drying and packaging warehouse and shop with their own range of tempting products. <http://bearomatic.com/en>

Return to Hotel at approx. 17.30

Your Guides : Marion & Arnold ter Horst - (Marion is a longtime MGS member & former Portugal branch head) are a retired Dutch couple having lived in the North and Middle of Portugal for 36 years. They enjoy organising short visits to many parts of Portugal to encourage and raise interest in local gardening, agriculture, gastronomy and small businesses in that field.