



Monte da Quinta

Luxury Alentejo Farmhouses in Southern Portugal



Local Interests

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Something for Everyone

Castro Verde

Within walking distance the extremely well equipped town has several restaurants and coffee shops, a choice of three large supermarkets with excellent fresh fish, meat and deli counters, a health centre with A&E and 24hr pharmacy and a large open air market on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

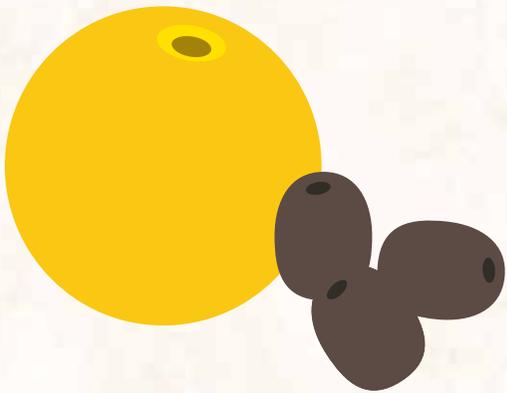
The town has boutiques, hardware and household shops. There is a post office, several banks with cash points, children play park, an internet cafe, a night club www.santaloucura.com, public swimming pools and tennis courts, a spa offering various therapies and treatments, a coach station, cinema, several churches a cultural centre and museum. There are also several petrol stations within Castro Verde.

With all these amenities Castro Verde still maintains all the Portuguese culture, architecture and traditions of a beautiful historical town.

Legendary Kingdom of Portugal

This legendary birthplace of the Kingdom of Portugal lies a short distance southeast of Castro Verde in the fields of the 'Campo de Ourique'.

The Royal Basilica of Castro Verde which was commissioned by King Sebastian of Portugal in 1573 stands in tribute to the Christian victory referred to as the Battle of Ourique. Legend has it that D. Afonso Henriques who had been declared Prince of Portugal after the Battle of São Mamede defeated five Moorish kings and was then proclaimed King upon the victory. The walls of the central nave of the Royal Basilica are covered in azulejos immortalizing scenes of the battle. Just a 10 minute walk from Monte da Quinta



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Museum of Lucerna

The Museum of the Lucerna opened in 2004 and offers a unique collection of Lucernas (Roman oil lamps) of Roman epoch (Century I-III D.C.), discovered in 1994, in the locality of Santa Bárbara dos Padrões. The museum is just a five minute walk from Monte da Quinta

The thousands of lucernas, decorated with the most diverse motives and mythological scenes, provided light during the Roman archaeological works.

Neighbouring Towns

Castro Verde is flanked by the towns of Aljustrel, Mertola, Ourique and Almodovar offering similar facilities and all steeped in history of the Turdetans, Romans, Arabs and the Moors.

Guest Guide

Our comprehensive guest guide provides details and maps on recommended local restaurants. This guide can be found with your welcome pack upon your arrival and provides useful information when planning day trips as well as local interests and attractions.

Local Leisure Facilities

Modern leisure facilities include indoor and outdoor swimming pools, outdoor tennis courts, squash courts and a gym.

Activities

The Alentejo landscape is ideal for a number of activities and provides a fantastic backdrop for Horse Riding, Quad Bikes, Hot Air Ballooning, Karting, Paintball, Archery, Bird Watching, Jeep Hill Safaris and Freshwater Fishing. The un-spoilt coast line offers Big Game Fishing, Windsurfing and Scuba Diving classes.

Swim with Dolphins

For a fun day out for the whole family we can recommend several Water Parks and the ZooMarine Park located in Guia offers a unique opportunity to swim with the Dolphins. A 45 minute drive from Castro Verde. www.zoomarine.pt



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Golf

Portugal is famous for its many Golf courses within the Algarve and Costa de Lisboa region. www.portugalvirtual.pt

Motor Racing - Autodromo International do Algarve

Hosting FIA Formula 1 testing, FIA GP2 series. A1 Grand Prix, FIM Superbike, La Mans series and many more. A 50 minute drive from Castro Verde. www.autodromoalgarve.com

Tours and Excursions

- ✿ Megalithic sites, Boat Trips - River and Costal, Natural Parks,
- ✿ Jeep Safaris & Winery's.

Cultural Heritage

The virtue of the areas in the Tourist Region of the Golden Plain is their diversity. Visit and discover castles; churches; convents; museums; towers; chapels and ancient ruins. The region has a vast architectural, historical and cultural heritage, bringing together the plain "Montes" and the most elaborate artistic creations.

The Romans and Arabs left their marks across the region, in the style and details of monuments, especially in the beautiful churches and not least the language, customs and faces of the local people.

- ✿ Historic and Archeological Sites and Beauty Spots
- ✿ Our guest guide provides details on such attractions.



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Local Cuisine

We recommend you try the regional cuisine, famous for its succulent black pig and an endless variety of fresh fish and shell fish. Cured hams and sausages; homemade bread and cheeses; “migas” (pork and bread crumbs); “acardas” (breaded soups with coriander, vinegar or garlic and tomatoes); “ensopado de borrego” (lamb stew); “a pastora” (lamb cooked with bay and garlic) are just a few of the fine culinary offers to those who visit the Golden Plains. There are plenty of game dishes as well as sweets which were traditionally made in convents. Regional wines: Vidigueira; Cuba and Alvito; Pias; Moura and Amaraleja are all producers of quality wines.

Our Recommendations

Castro Verde along with its neighbouring towns host a number of excellent restaurants offering a wide range of menus and regional wines at great prices. We provide maps on how to get there and a pocket English translation to help you select from the menu.

Nature

Enjoy the abundance of animal and plant life. Great Bustards, white storks, cranes, kestrels and birds of the gallinaceous species are established in the region. This region is one of the last places in Europe to find such birds as the Great Bustard. Its is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world. The males can in some cases weigh more than fifteen kilos.

Now in retreat and has disappeared from several countries. Castro Verde is home to the largest population in the country estimated at around 800 individuals.

Bird Watching www.lpn.pt

Centro de Educacao Ambiental do Vale Goncalinho, LPN (Nature Protection League) created in 1948 is the oldest environmental NGO in Iberia. One of the developed projects is the sustainable Castro Verde Programme. It started in 1993, with the acquisition of 5 estates in Castro Verde promoting the conservation for steppe birds.

We are happy to arrange for parties to visit the centre, a 10 minute drive from Monte da Quinta.



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Wine Tourism

Once upon a time Alentejo vines were cultivated by Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans. Nowadays they are grown on vast farms and wine-producing estates and their wines have put the name Alentejo among the best wines in Portugal, while its culinary tradition is regarded as one of the most tasty and original. A world of different flavours that requires time to understand and appreciate – just like the rest of the Alentejo.

We can recommend fantastic tours followed by lunch or dinner at three of our favourite Vineyards and all located within a 20 Minutes drive of Monte da Quinta. A relaxing afternoon with a stunning backdrop.

 **Our local Vineyard**
www.malhadinhanova.pt

Herdade da Malhadinha Nova winery and vineyards welcomes visitors for guided tours, tasting, lunch or diner. Visitors have the opportunity to buy wine and other products.

Riding, biking and fishing are other activities that can be arranged. We have a good relationship with the proprietors and are happy to arrange parties to visit. A ten minute drive from Castro Verde.

Hunting

The Golden Plain has the most beautiful game reserve. Partridges, wild rabbit, hare, turtle doves and quails are widespread and wild boar can also be found.

 **Fishing**
www.flap-holidays.com

Fishing is the leisure activity which presides over lakes and rivers. The main species in the region are catfish, carp and boce, living in uniquely beautiful surroundings.

 **Portuguese Recipes**
www.portuguesecooking.com

Traditional Portuguese recipes combine a blend of flavours and techniques of many other cultures dating back centuries.





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