

THE CHEST GAZETTE

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Najlepsza tabloid informacyjny o dziedzictwie kulturowym i przyrodniczym od 2021 roku

Sintra - a truly historic treasure!



Since Prehistory, Sintra has been inhabited. It was occupied by the Romans and Muslims. It was conquered from the Moors in 1154, by King Afonso Henriques. The famous *Castelo dos Mouros* (Moors' Castle) stands out at the top of the mountain.

There was a large community of Jews in the village, in its own neighborhood – the *Judiaria* (Jewry). In Colares, in the Sintra area, a Muslim community continued to live after being conquered.

Sintra is the testimony of almost every period of Portuguese history. From the 12th century onwards, the presence of religious institutions is noted: convents, monasteries and military orders. The Black Death, in the 14th century, was deeply felt in these lands.

King D. Manuel I (1495-1521) gave the Vila a great boost, with works of great modernity, contributing to its development. At the top of Serra de Sintra, in the 19th century, *Pena Palace* was built by King D. Fernando who married Queen D. Maria II. It is a beautiful monument.

In 1639, the *Vila* had already 4,000 inhabitants. The 1755 earthquake devastated Sintra.

It is worth noticing *Vila Palace*, a monument in the center of the Vila, much visited and appreciated by national and foreign tourists for its paintings and its artistic content.

In the 20th century, the municipality experienced a large population increase. Sintra was elevated to the category of World Heritage of Humanity and classified by UNESCO as a Cultural Landscape.

The Portuguese author Vergílio Ferreira wrote that “Sintra is the only place in the country where History became a garden. In Sintra you don't die. One passes alive to the other side, because death is impossible in the vigor of such beauty”.

Sintra and the Romanticism

It is considered the greatest exponent of Romanticism, which is why Sintra is considered the capital and expression of this literary movement. The chalets, mansions, such as the one in Monserrate, manor houses and estates, are surrounded by lush vegetation, such as *Quinta do Relógio* or *Quinta da Regaleira*.

All this beauty was masterfully portrayed by national and foreign painters, poets and prose writers, such as Eça de Queirós, Vergílio Ferreira, Ramalho Ortigão, Lord Byron, Richard Strauss, Christian Andersen, William Beckford and Francis Cook. These last two were tenants of Monserrate.

Data about Sintra:

Location: 30 kms from Lisbon city centre;

Population: 381.728 inhabitants;

Gastronomy: “Travesseiros” and “Queijadas”.



Travesseiro



Queijada

Reporter: Bernardete Mauricio