

MONSARAZ

and its royal estate



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DO ARRABALDE AO CASTELO

Desafiando o Tempo, contrastando com a plana regularidade da paisagem alentejana, impõe a sua grandeza a histórica vila de Monsaraz. De etimologia híbrida e composta evocando domínios vários, palco de aventuras e desventuras ao longo dos séculos e que, graças à aplicação das gentes várias que a povoaram, soube aproveitar das ofertas da terra o essencial para a sua identidade: são os xistos, as lajes, os granitos, por vezes o mármore, os tijolos cozidos e o tijolo burro, a par com uma branca alvenaria, que se conjugam para impor a silhueta única de Monsaraz que, do alto morro circundado de estevas, aroeiras e piorno, convida o visitante a uma experiência única de partilha e descoberta.

Apresentando para o lado da fronteira com Espanha um ar de fortaleza inquebrável e indomada, espraia-se do lado oposto, por onde nos aproximamos, com seu ar de barca no calmo oceano alentejano, onde as pequenas aldeias circundantes e o tenaz aproveitamento do solo lembram autênticos oásis que o Homem teimou em manter.

FROM THE OUTSKIRTS TO THE CASTLE

Challenging time, contrasting with the level regularity of the Alentejan landscape, the historic village of Monsaraz is imposing in its grandeur. Its name is hybrid and composed, and it evokes several periods of domination, a stage for adventures and misadventures throughout the centuries. Thanks to the commitment of the various peoples that have inhabited it, it has always known how to make use of what the land has offered to establish its essential identity: schist, flagstones, granite, at times marble, baked brick and fortified brick, along with the white of the walls. These combine to impose the unique silhouette of Monsaraz which, from its high hill, surrounded by the fragrant rock-roses called gum cistus, by mastic trees and by broom, invites the visitor to a unique experience of sharing and discovery.

On the side facing the frontier with Spain, it offers the impression of an indestructible and unconquerable fortress. On the other side, from where we approach, it spreads out and has the air of a ship on the calm Alentejan ocean, where the surrounding small villages and the intensive utilisation of the soil, bring to mind real oases which Man has persisted in sustaining.

