

PORTUGAL '22

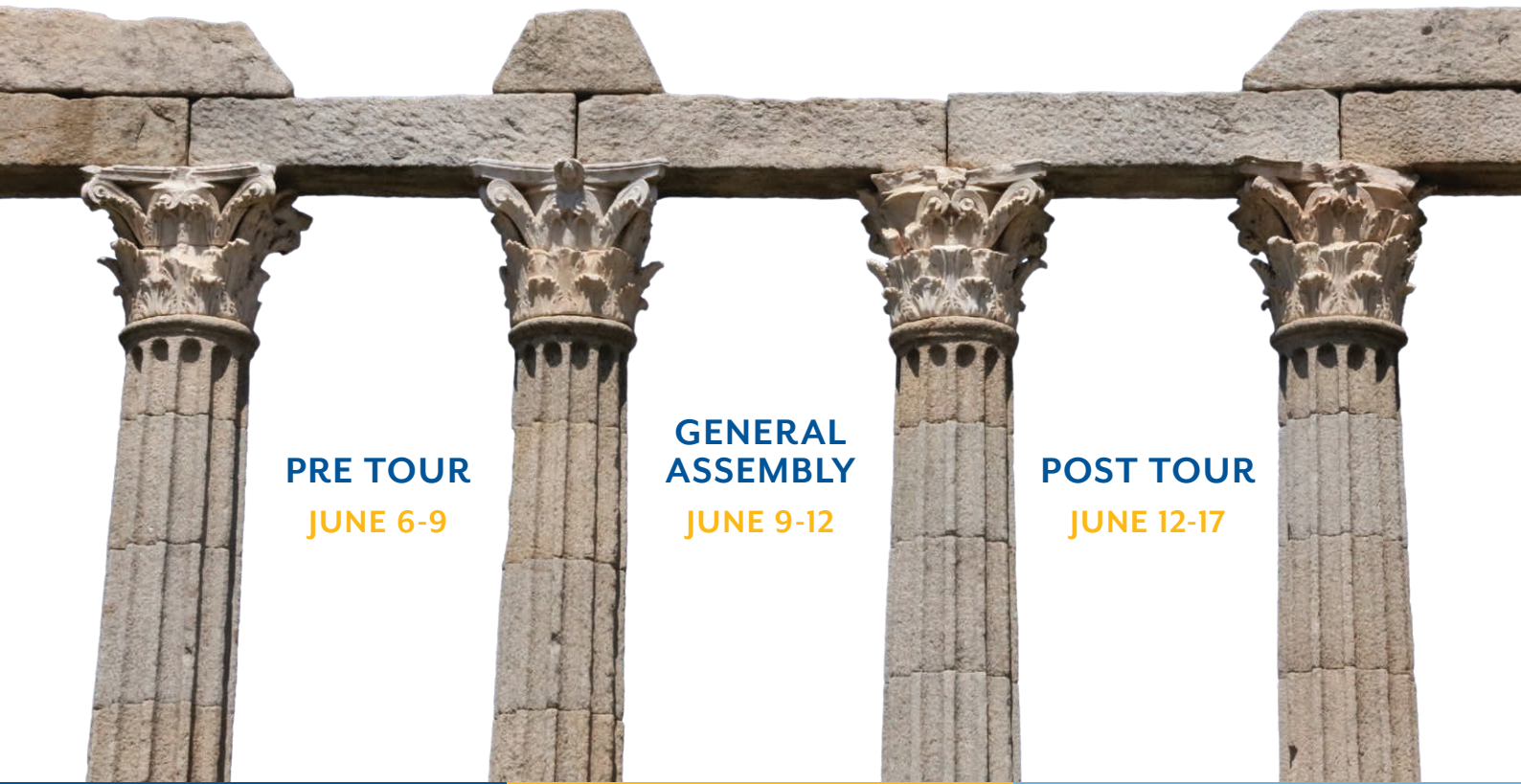
25th Jubilee

LANDOWNERS COMMITTED TO BIODIVERSITY,
USING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

PRE TOUR
JUNE 6-9

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
JUNE 9-12

POST TOUR
JUNE 12-17



EVORA

Main sights

1. Giraldo Square
2. Cathedral
3. Roman Temple
4. Convento dos Loios
5. Evora museum
6. Moura Square
7. Church of San Francisco/Bones
8. Evora university
9. Palacio Dom Manuel
10. Roman Walls
11. Aqueduct
12. Church of Our Lady of Grace

Hotels

- W.** Convento do Espinheiro
(not on map - 5 km north-west of Évora)
- X.** Pousada Convento Évora
- Y.** M'ar De Ar Aqueduto
- Z.** The Noble House

P Parking

For those staying in Évora centre with their own car, please note that the roads in Évora are very narrow and that parking is very limited. Hotels advise dropping off luggage and parking just outside the city walls.


Please refer to the Memo for details on pick up locations and timings.



Dress code:

Informal dinners: *tunique de ville* • **Gala dinner:** *cocktail dress*

Visits: *casually smart* • *comfortable shoes*

Pre tour and Post tour: *casually smart* • *comfortable shoes* • *hiking equipment and binoculars* 



25th Jubilee Friends of the Countryside

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dearest Friends,

Bem-vindo a Portugal!

How happy I am to be once again inviting you to our General Assembly. And this will not be just any General Assembly! This indeed will be our 25th Silver Jubilee GA and *that* is worth celebrating!

Évora is a beautiful UNESCO cultural site with Medieval walls and a Roman temple and is located 130km east of Lisbon. We shall gather for a warm welcome on June 9 in the cloister of the Convento do Espinheiro, previously a convent with an important religious heritage. It is also here that the General Assembly will take place the following day with the theme “*Landowners Committed to Biodiversity: using Creative Solutions*”. Following the GA, we are launching the idea of a workshop entitled “*The Generational Handover*” for both Friends and Young Friends with various discussion panels. The Gala dinner that Friday will be presided by T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Bragança.

You will have a variety of Tours to choose from on Saturday that include a wine estate that has branched out to develop a contemporary art collection and restaurant, the full story of how wine bottles are corked at Amorim, a 16th agricultural retreat with a Baroque chapel set in 300 ha of cork forest, ancient olives and grazing land for sheep and black Iberian pigs, a marble quarry, and the best of Alentejo countryside from water management to successful estates. For the informal dinner that evening we shall certainly have a regional wine tasting session!

We are also organising a special Welcome Pre-tour around Lisbon for a smaller group of 30 Friends to stay at Herdade de Pinheiro, a Wildlife Estate Label and a visit to Comporta. A highlight will be the Post-tour to Sao Miguel Island in the volcanic Azores for a group of 40 to witness nature in its purest state. Staying at 3 different hotels to benefit from the different landscape, activities will include meeting with entrepreneurs and officials, discussions with farmers, visits to local landowners, thermal baths, terra nostra gardens, tea and pineapple plantations and the essential whale watching!

There is ample information available on our dedicated website:  <https://events3759.wixsite.com/evora2022>

We always look forward to this important moment in the Friends calendar as the opportunity for us to gather in relaxed yet beautiful surroundings, to share experiences and discover different practices and private estates.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous support from our Friends and ELO member organisations in Portugal helping us put together this amazing jubilee programme.

Yours sincerely,



Michael zu Salm-Salm
FCS President



PORTUGAL '22

25th Jubilee

25 YEARS!



Three men developed the idea to found the Friends 25 years ago: Giuseppe Visconti, Johann Nordenfalk, and Thierry de l'Escaille. From the brilliant idea to the implementation, everything was in their hands. We would like to thank them and their wives and families who supported them from the beginning.

A stable network of Friends of the Countryside, at first in Europe alone, today almost around the free world, has emerged these past 25 years. This network is based on warm contacts, personal relationships, friendships, as we cultivate and deepen them at the legendary annual meetings. At our "GAs" we get to know and appreciate new friends, houses and often listed monuments and landscapes. What a great gift!

We are all committed to the Countryside we love. For God's creation, which is entrusted to us humans to preserve and use. We are happy to take responsibility for the Countryside as private landowners for the next generations. It was therefore only natural to invite the young to join the Young Friends of the Countryside - another success story.

The worldwide protection of private property rights is our core concern. Protection through use, use it or lose it, is a core wisdom taught to us by Johan Nordenfalk, who passed away a year ago. In the network we visit each other, help each other, learn from each other. We stick together, all the more so as we live in a time when peace, freedom, a healthy countryside and our prosperity seem to be even more endangered than they were 25 years ago. In this spirit, ad multos annos!

Michael zu Salm Salm,
FCS President

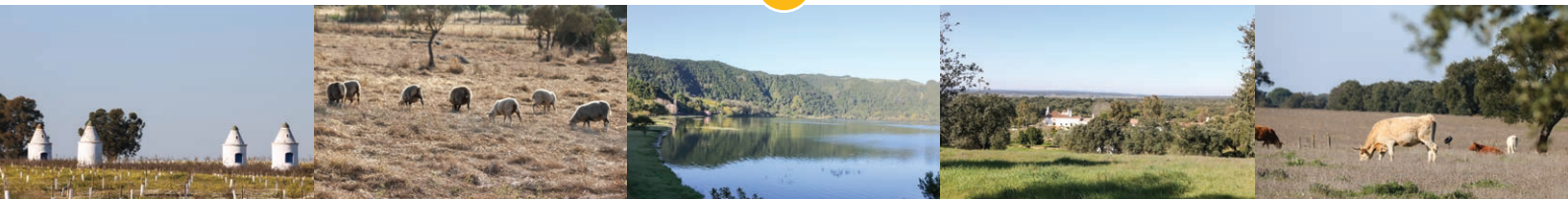
25 years of Friends of the Countryside, it seems like it was just yesterday. We began our life in Italy first in Lombardia with META, and after that, 25 years ago, as Friends in Firenze. Since then, Friends has grown and developed its impact not only from London to Bucharest, but today from Sao Paulo to Washington up to Kiev.

Friends has become a global network, adapting itself to new trends and requests, from Brexit to Mercosur or FTA in progress with the USA, New Zealand, or Morocco. Having members now from different parts of the world, we are concentrating our efforts on making sure landowners and their businesses are empowered to deliver wherever you are acting. FCS is a living organisation, representing wealth development with creativity, initiative, and good business experience.

Having had the good fortune to accompany its evolution, it is with pride that I witness the sustainable excellence of our network: great people, great ideas, great accomplishments, great businesses, great partners, and great Friends! The Countryside with such actors has so much to offer.

Thierry de l'Escaille
CEO Friends of the Countryside

 www.friendsofthecountryside.org



Alentejo and Évora

THE REGION

AGRICULTURE

Évora is the capital of the Alentejo region, whose name means “beyond the Tagus river”. It is a beautiful region of undulating green hills and picturesque villages of white houses with terracotta roofs. The region is referred to as “the breadbasket” of Portugal, thanks to its rich soil and excellent irrigation. The main areas of agriculture are **cork forestry and production, wines, olives, almonds, cereals and citrus fruit**. Mining is also an important part of the economy as it is the marble quarried near Estremoz.

Alentejo is the world's most important area for growing cork oak, or “sobreiro” in Portuguese and cork forests are protected by law. As the areas surrounding the trees are usually given over to grazing, unique ecosystems of livestock, citrus trees, vines or olives have formed in these forests. The bark is still harvested by hand to this day by teams of men with hand-axes stripping the tree off their bark.

Due to its position inland, the region is often subject to heat waves and typical summer temperatures can reach up to 40 degrees. The water reserve from the huge Alqueva dam that was completed in 2002 serves as a guaranteed water supply for irrigation and domestic use.

HISTORY

From the rise and fall of ancient Rome to the catastrophes of the 20th century, Évora is a city that has lived to see many changes, with a history spanning almost five millennia. Its historical centre has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site and hosts an old medieval wall protecting the city, a Roman temple and a medieval aqueduct.

Évora is ranked the second most livable city in all of Portugal, combining new and old, and is a regional capital that bustles with life and culture.

Having survived for five millennia, it comes as no surprise that the history of Évora has been tumultuous. The name itself is said to have Celtic roots, possibly stemming from the word for “yew tree”, giving Évora the meaning “place of yew trees”. It was brought under Roman control, of which the main monument is the impressive Roman Temple. Thanks to the city's beneficial position at the junction of several important trade routes, it expanded into a walled city.

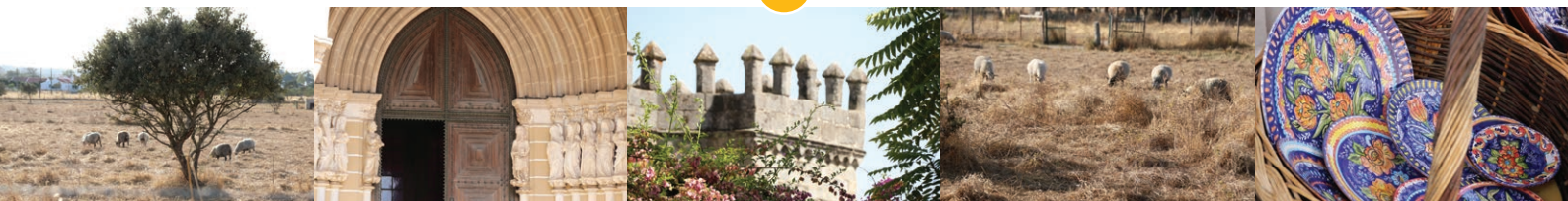
In the 8th century Évora, or Jabura as it was then called, fell under Moorish dominion, together with much of the Iberian peninsula. They made considerable efforts to build upon the defences of the city by fortifying the protective Roman walls and establishing a Kasbah.

The city was reconquered by the Christians in 1156 and construction began soon after of the cathedral. Portugal became a major colonial power from the 15th century during the Age of Exploration. Kings of Portugal began to live in Évora with increasing frequency and the city entered its golden age. Numerous buildings were constructed to signify this era, among them the St. Claire Convent, the royal palace and various other notable convents. Over the centuries, Évora became a hub of art, religious influence and architecture.

In more recent history, the Franco-Spanish invasion in 1807 sparked off the Peninsular war, part of the Napoleonic Wars, with the resulting joint Franco-Spanish occupation of Portugal and the fleeing of the court to Brazil. At the Battle of Évora, over 8000 people were slaughtered (while the French lost 290 soldiers of their own). By 1811 the French were driven out.

Today, the city is known for the various monuments that mark the different eras of Portugal, and indeed Europe as a whole, its wine, as well as being a very attractive place to live.

Recommended reading: “*The First Global Village*” by Martin Page.



Reflections from FCS Vice presidents

For the 25th anniversary of FCS I was asked to write about my reflections on the FCS. Although I was not involved in its founding, I have been a member for 15 years. It was one of the best decisions I made in my career. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the founding fathers and our figurehead Thierry de l'Escaille for devising and founding ELO and FCS. It is unimaginable how much both organisations mean to private land ownership in Europe and beyond! Our property rights are constantly being violated, but ELO and FCS have become factors of great significance. The politicians can no longer ignore that! An enormous amount of work has been done and I am always amazed at how many new initiatives come out of this and are successful.

The FCS GAs are the highlight of the year for me and as a private landowner and land manager I feel very empowered by FCS. What is also striking is the enthusiasm and great commitment of the employees, for whom nothing is too much. Really great!

The Friends are all special people with a story from whom a lot can be learned. A warm bath. YFCS has also become a very important link to the next generation. It is a great honour to serve FCS as one of the three Vice Presidents and I congratulate FCS on its Silver Jubilee. Let's move towards the Golden Jubilee together!

Seger van Voorst tot Voorst, FCS Vice President



The Friends has over the years gained in significance as a meeting point for landowners to both make and maintain lasting friendships. We all have shared interests and experiences of management of the countryside and the essential property rights which underpin this. What has been lost to British members through Brexit is now being compensated for by the global reach of the Friends network and activities.

In this spirit Jack Hanbury Tenison and I welcomed a group of Friends to our homes in Wales for a weekend in September 2021. We had fun, broke bread, drank wine, laughed, shared ideas and learned. It was a huge success. We landowners all do the same thing with our farms and estates but with slight differences according to scale, geography, climate and culture. This sharing of experience is the future for Friends of the Countryside. And the hand of friendship must and will be maintained across the water.

Ross Murray, FCS Vice President

I have been a member of the FCS for more than twenty years and my experience in it is very positive. The idea of creating this network was inspirational and I would like to congratulate the founders because I believe it has been very interesting for all members. I could cite several reasons amongst:

- It has brought together a large number of people from different countries who are concerned about private property rights, all of them rural landowners.
- This has made it possible to see that the problems are very similar, even if the cultures are different ...
- This has led to a coexistence between many members that has allowed us to establish friendly relations and mutual visits, that have resulted in discovering in situ different farms throughout Europe, ...

To sum up, I am happy to have been a member of FCS for many years now. I am also happy to have contributed to the growth of the group in Spain during this time. And last but not least, I am willing to continue to help to make the brilliant idea of its creation and subsequent development even greater.

Antonio Melgarejo, FCS Vice President



Programme and GA Agenda

For bus location and pick up times, please refer to the MEMO

THURSDAY, June 9 • Convento do Espinheiro

For FCS Board Members

04:30pm-07:30pm FCS Board meeting, *San Jeronimo room.*

08:30pm Board dinner, *Cistern Hall.*

For FCS Members and partners and YFCS

Convento do Espinheiro, Évora.

08:30pm (optional) Welcome cocktail-dinner, *Cloisters.*

FRIDAY, June 10 • Convento do Espinheiro • D. Vasco Hall

For FCS & YFCS Members

09:00am-11:00am 25th Friends of the Countryside General Assembly.

11:30am-12:45pm Conference:

Landowners committed to Biodiversity: using creative solutions

01:00pm-01:20pm Famigro Award ceremony.

For Partners

09:00am Meet at Convento do Espinheiro, departure by bus.

Visit of Monsaraz, Sao Pedro do Corval and Reguengos de Monsaraz.

For All

01:30pm-03:00pm Walking lunch at Convento do Espinheiro - *Divinus restaurant.*

Afternoon

OPTION 1:

03:30pm-05:00pm (optional) Workshop, “Generational Hand over”, Convento do Espinheiro - *San Jeronimo room.*

OPTION 2:

03:30pm-06:30pm (optional) Departure by bus at 03:00pm - Visit Evora and wine tasting.

Gala dinner • Convento do Espinheiro • D. Vasco Hall

08:30pm Gala dinner under the patronage of TRH the Duke and Duchess de Bragança.

Wildlife Estates label for Portugal ceremony.



Reflections

The spirit of our association has flourished since the beginning thanks to the values, the interests and the passion which are the common heritage of all landowners. For 25 years (and many to come) on behalf of its members (belonging to all European Countries and beyond) FCS while defending property rights has supported environmental protection and safe agriculture. The vision is to deeply involve landowners in the ongoing evolution. Meetings and visits in the countryside fostered common understandings and special amicable relations among Friends. All of us remember walking through selected estates all over Europe, discussing options, sharing experiences and promoting participation. And then Young Friends were around stimulating a long term perspective. How many splendid and moving pictures lie in our albums! Johan Nordenfalk who first launched the idea of FCS, on a clear and sunny day during an ELO Board session in England, from his seat smiles and encourages all of us to continue on the road of cooperation and friendship under the flag of freedom and peace. In these dark days our land is a stronghold: an appropriate management can be of enormous help not only for owners but also for the entire community providing adequate food supply in an environmentally friendly context.

Giuseppe Visconti, Honorary President

Reflection from a Board Member

Being involved with Friends of the Countryside has been a wonderful experience for me as a sixth generation American female rancher in Texas learning of the issues that the Europeans of many more generations face in their lives. The specifics are very different than what the Americans face but collectively they all have a sustainable, preservation, conservation thread of concern. We have learned from each other. It has been so interesting to meet and to develop friendships with such fascinating people across the ocean from America as we all focus on the need for preservation yet modernization and sustainability of wonderful heritages. It is an honor to be involved.

Mary-Randolph Ballinger, FCS Board Member for the USA

Saturday Tours

SATURDAY, June 11

Visits in the Countryside.

Please refer to the MEMO for details on pick up locations and timings.

All estates are in the surrounding area of Évora, a maximum of 130km.

09:00am-06:00pm

The opportunity to discuss and witness first hand: wine, cork, quality food, breeding, heritage, tradition, landscapes and successful & inspiring businesses.

BLUE TOUR:

“HERITAGE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

Herdade do Outeiro de Esquila: (15km from Évora).

 <https://www.noragreen.pt/>

Owner and Young Friend **Hein van Beuningen** welcomes us to his beautiful estate for a coffee break and introduction to his development business. Hein's father Herman, a member of the Friends, shall also accompany the group.

Herdade Castelo Ventoso: (15km from Évora).

A 16th century Jesuit agricultural retreat with a Baroque chapel set in 300 ha of cork forest, ancient olives and grazing land for sheep and black Iberian pigs. The housing is being converted into a high end private location for business off sites, weekly rentals and small intimate events. There are also several residences for long term rentals. The property is owned by the **van Beuningen and Ramos** families.

We will visit the main house, chapel, gardens and the cork farm and enjoy lunch here with our host Hein van Beuningen.



Quinta Dona Maria vineyards

 <https://www.portevinho.be/dona-maria-julio-bastos-en>

Wine has been produced in this domain for more than 150 years. The current owners **Julio and Isabelle Bastos** started in 1988 to market nationally and internationally the high quality wines produced using the treading technique at this Quinta.

The group will enjoy a wine tasting.

YELLOW TOUR:

“VINEYARDS, ART AND GASTRONOMY”

Quinta do Quetzal wine and art + almond and olive farm
60km south of Évora.

 www.quintadoquetzal.com

The present estate was founded by **Cees and Inge de Bruin**. Manager **Reto Frank Jörg** will accompany the group the whole day.

Wine production on the rich slopes of the Vidigueira with a microclimate of the foothills of the Serra do Mendro and soils rich in schist to produce a limited production of concentrated top quality wine. In 2016 a new building covered in schist plates with a contemporary restaurant and shop as well as a renowned art centre with an annual contemporary art exhibition was opened by **Aveline de Bruin**, daughter of Cees and Inge. At the time of the visit, the exhibition will be: “Thru The Mirror - What is a cartoon if not a mirror?”. Quinta do Quetzal was awarded the Best Restaurant Award, Alentejo 2018 and Best Wine Tourism Award, Alentejo 2017. The group will enjoy a gastronomic lunch prepared by Michelin starred chef **Pedro Mendes**.

After lunch, a visit to an almond and olive farm.

GREEN TOUR:

“FROM BARK TO BOTTLE”

Amorim Florestal & Equipar, Coruche.

 <https://www.amorimcork.com/en/>

Owner **Antonio Amorim** is closing the Friday conference.

An in depth presentation of the manufacturing process of the cork industry from “bark to bottle” from the largest cork producers in the world!

The group will stop on the way to Coruche to a cork tree plantation to observe the cork harvest underway as well as a visit to an oak nursery with its special irrigation process. In Coruche, a visit to the raw-materials preparation unit, Amorim Florestal, to see how the cork planks (bark) coming from the forest are processed. At Equipar, belonging to the cork stopper division the group will witness how the planks are manufactured into cork stoppers for table wine (shanks and discs). 10 million cork stoppers are produced ... a day!

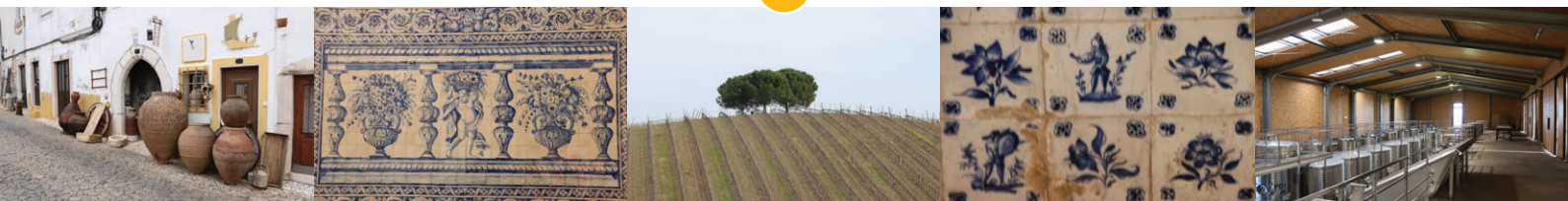
All the waste cork resulting from the industrial process is reintroduced into Amorim’s raw-material supply to other units making different cork applications (flooring, memo boards and even components for space vehicles, etc.).

Amorim motto is “nothing is wasted, everything is transformed” ... cork dust included!

Lunch will be served at **Quinta Grande**.

Quinta Grande is a centennial family company established in the early 20th century by the first Viscount of Coruche. He planted vineyards, employing modern techniques at the time, to achieve his dream of becoming a winemaker. Although he did not witness that milestone during his lifetime, Quinta Grande has become the place of choice for the nature of Ribatejo to spread its full essence.

70 km from Lisbon, it inspires those that come and no longer wish to leave, with abundant nature and fertile plains where rice is grown, but also vineyards, horticultural products, and a wide forest area of stone pine, clearly dominated by cork oaks.



RED TOUR: “ALENTEJO, A UNIQUE REGION”

Ganaderia Murteira Grave, the Alqueva Dam & Herdade de Esporão.

Ganaderia Murteira Grave

 www.murteiragrave.com.pt

The Ganaderia Murteira Grave estate was founded by Manuel Joaquim Grave (grandfather of the current owner Joaquim Grave) in 1994. At Galeana, the bulls can be admired in all their splendour. The visit will include a briefing explaining the location of the estate, the way the bull is raised and the management of the estate and will show the lives of the bulls and cows on the estate while towed by a tractor. It will also include, exclusively for the group, a bull show in the newly built arena. The group shall be hosted by current owner and previous *fornado* **Joaquim Grave**. Lunch will be served in the Souvenirs Room.

The Alqueva Dam

On the way to and from Ganaderia Murteira Grave, you will cross the Alqueva Dam - breathtaking in its beauty. Lying on the River Guadiana, this arched dam was financed by the European Commission and completed in 2002 to create the largest artificial lake in Europe (250km²). The lake allows the irrigation of 120,000ha of land and the production of a reversible hydroelectric power station (518 megawatt) as well as outdoor activities and water sports. As a water reserve it has met the needs of at least 3 years of drought.

Herdade do Esporão (if time permits).

 <https://www.esporao.com/en/>

Part of the Alentejo's montado ecosystem (cork oak forests), in Portugal, Herdade do Esporão has extraordinary conditions for agriculture. With approximately 700 hectares of vineyards, olive groves and the other crops they grow using organic methods and integrated production. With around 40 grape varieties, 4 types of olive, orchards and kitchen gardens. The production of Esporão's olive oils comes from the will to apply the knowledge obtained in the production of wines into the production of high quality olive oils. All oils, exclusively extra virgin or virgin, are produced using natural methods and entirely traditional processes, preserving the pure juice of the harvested olives. The visit will include a guided tour of the winery and tastings of Esporão Colheita White & Red.

EVENING FOR FCS: “THE BEST OF EVORA”

FCS: 07:00pm Drink and visit the church and exhibitions, Palacio de Cadaval, Évora.

09:00pm informal dinner at Pousada Convento de Évora: Cloisters.

Palacio de Cadaval www.palaciocadaval.com

Visiting the Cadaval Palace is to feel up close what is also the history of Portugal. The ancestral home and the property of the Dukes of Cadaval family, since its foundation in the 14th century until today, the Palace was built on the ruins of a Moorish Castle in the heart of Évora, and has been able to extend itself over time in all its essence through careful intervention programs.

Located in front of the Roman Temple, the Palace is a singular example of the country's architectural heritage, resulting from a unique combination of Mudéjar, Gothic and Manueline styles. The building's body includes a vast multi-storey residential area, two interior gardens and a church that is the final resting place for every generation of the Dukes of Cadaval family. The church is, moreover, a national reference given its stunning interior, where azulejo tile panels signed and dated from the beginning of the 18th century prevail.

Martim Afonso de Melo, noble servant of the Grand Master of the Order of Aviz and descendant of the Portuguese royal family, commissioned the building, then designated the Palace of the Tower of the Five Shields. The Palace served as the temporary residence of the monarchs Dom João II, Dom João IV and Dom João V. The Palace was also used to imprison the Duke Dom Fernando II of Braganza, accused of conspiring against King Dom João II and subsequently beheaded in the Praça do Giraldo, in Évora, in 1483. Today the Palace remains the residence of the Dukes of Cadaval, although the church and some of the rooms are open to the public throughout the year, exhibiting a collection of historical and contemporary pieces from the family: books, charters, armoury, painting, sculpture, furniture, porcelain, portraits and travel accessories, among other objects of value and major historical interest. At the same time, the Palace will host a wonderful exhibition which will surprise you.



yfcs

 www.monstersallheira.com

João Portugal Ramos • Vila Santa winery
(Estremoz - 45 km from Évora).

 www.jportugalramos.com

08:30pm YFCS Informal dinner at Fitapreta.

 <https://www.antoniomacanita.com/en/wines/fitapreta>

Alexandra Leroy Maçanita will greet the group and share information about her and her husband Antonio's journey of starting wine production in Portugal, the renovation of the beautiful medieval house and the building of the cork covered wine factory and cellar. Fitapreta was awarded Wind Producer of the Year in 2020 by the Revista de Vinhos.

Drinks will be served in the courtyard as the sun sets followed by a buffet dinner in the disused chapel. After dinner there will be music and dancing among the wine barrels!

FCS: 07:00pm Drink and visit of the church of Saint John the Evangelist and the exhibitions in Palácio dos Duques de Cadaval, Évora.

08:45pm informal dinner at Pousada Convento de Évora: *Cloisters*.

FCS Post Tour: Very early departure for the flight to the Azores.

YFCS: 12:00 noon:

Brunch at Pipa Roza for those still around (at own cost).

And if you still have time after, climb to the top of the cathedral roof for stunning views!



Ask for the ELO Activity report to be updated on all the actions and projects.



PRE TOUR

MONDAY JUNE 6 TO THURSDAY JUNE 9

« BEM-VINDO A PORTUGAL » - SADO ESTUÁRIO

MONDAY, June 6

Arrivals in Lisbon. Check in to hotel Pestana Palace*****

08:00pm Welcome dinner, Pestana Palace, *Andaluz room*.

TUESDAY, June 7

Morning

08:30am Departure for **Comporta** via Setúbal and by ferry.

We may have a chance to spot dolphins (Bottlenose dolphin - *Tursiops truncatus*) in the Estuary. The first scientific records about the dolphins in the Sado estuary began in 1980. The resident population currently stands at about 30 dolphins: 22 adults, of which 8 females, 5 males and 9 of whom the sex is as yet known. 4 Juveniles and 4 calves complete the population.

It is the only resident population of dolphins around Portugal and one of the 3 in all Europe, hence the need for so much protection and studies that aim for their well being and conservation.

11:00am arrival in **Troia**.

The bus will bring us to the Roman ruins of Troia for a visit with archaeologists working on the site. We will travel back in time, discovering Acala island, as it was known in the days of Ancient Rome located a few minutes from Troia's central area. We will visit the ruins of the largest center of the fish-salting industry from the times of the Roman Empire until the 6th century and wander among the ruins of factories, tombs and tubs for hot and cold baths. New vestiges are being discovered every year.

12:30pm Lunch at Carvalhal beach at the Sublime Beach club.

Comporta is renowned for its wild and unspoilt natural landscape, peaceful atmosphere and charming traditional villages. The magnificent beaches that stretch along more than 60 km of coastline are undoubtedly one of its main assets. The beaches of Comporta are indeed covered with a fine white sand that contrasts with the deep blue of the Atlantic ocean and the dunes covered with vegetation.

Afternoon

Visit **Herdade da Comporta** - Actividades Agro Silvícolas e Turísticas, S.A.

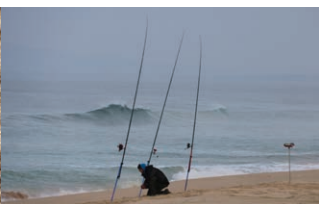
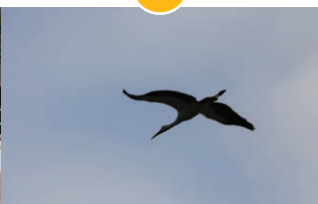
One of its goals is to develop a high-quality tourist destination and become a model for sustainable development in Europe, while still operating as an agricultural estate and preserving its environmental and cultural heritage. Herdade da Comporta intends to continue to diversify its agricultural activity, already present in its rice, wine and horticulture production, and so follow the new tendencies for a more ecological food production, together with the establishment of the "Herdade da Comporta" brand. On the other hand, the economic activity arising from the tourism project offers the conditions necessary to support a strategy of preservation and appraisal of natural heritage.

End afternoon

Stop at the typical fishing spot: Porto Palafita da Carrasqueira.

Arrival and installation at Herdade do Pinheiro.

08:30pm Dinner at Herdade do Pinheiro.



WEDNESDAY, June 8

Full Day at Herdade do Pinheiro.

- We kindly ask you to follow timings and instructions carefully to allow keeping to a busy schedule.
- In case of bad weather, a plan B has been organised.

Breakfast in rooms

Detailed visit, sharing experiences and discovering the different activities of the estate. Some traditional-regional insides.
2 groups of 15.

An area of 5000ha of agricultural land and forests lying along the Sado river with rich, biodiverse and productive wetlands. The estate holds an important estuarine ecosystem, several fresh water ponds, reed beds and temporary ponds. The estate includes a stud farm, cattle, forests, agriculture, a bird sanctuary and natural reserve. The estate has been developed recently to hold conferences and business meetings.

07:15pm Return to your rooms. Informal dress for dinner to allow for timely arrival for the surprise event!

07:45pm Surprise event.

09:15pm Late dinner and oyster tasting at Herdade do Pinheiro.

THURSDAY, June 9

Free morning at Herdade do Pinheiro or Barrosinha.

Visit the horses at Herdade do Pinheiro.

Possibility for a group of 4 max for birdwatching at 5.30am.

Breakfast in rooms

11:30pm Departure with luggage.

01:00pm Lunch to try out the typical Alentejo cuisine and good wines of **Monte Comenda Grande**.

The Comenda Grande agricultural project was launched by **Maria José de Almeida Margiochi**, granddaughter of José Maria Eugénio de Almeida (who set up the **Eugénio de Almeida Foundation**) and daughter of Gertrudes de Almeida Margiochi and Francisco Simões Margiochi, the latter one of the most renowned figures in

19th century Portuguese agriculture, picking up countless national and international awards and prizes for his farming related activities.

This landmark estate was inherited by Maria Madalena de Noronha and her husband João and today continued by their daughter **Maria de Lourdes S.A. de Noronha Lopes**, her husband, engineer **António Lopes**, and their children across an area spanning 750ha. They accompany the reconversion process undertaken by the Alentejan agricultural sector and have made significant investments to this end. This involved expanding the forested areas, incorporating part of the rain-fed lands into the irrigation system, prioritising the cork oak mostly cork oak *Quercus Suber* as well as installing 43ha of vines on outlying fields and planting a modern olive grove over around 30ha. The whole family is today involved in the business.


4:30pm Stop on the way to Évora at **Herdade Freixo do Meio**.

The estate goes back in time to find the best associations of plants to manage the Montado. More than organic agriculture, it is agroecology. The team will explain all we need to know about agroforestry. They farm and produce more than 300 quality, healthy and fairly priced organic and handmade foods. We will learn where the food comes from, how it is produced and processed and enjoy a presentation on Sharing the Harvest CSA Program - home delivered baskets of a selection of vegetables, meat, eggs, fruit, and more.


06:30-07:00pm Arrival in Évora, drop off at the hotels.

End of the Pre Tour

(N.B. FCS board members will have to leave after lunch)

 **Dress code:**

Casually smart for dinners, sport for the day, comfortable shoes.

Remember to bring your binoculars and camera to watch/photograph rare birds, astonishing landscapes, blue skies ... 



POST TOUR

SUNDAY JUNE 12 TILL FRIDAY JUNE 17

AZORES - SAO MIGUEL ISLAND

The Azores is one of two autonomous regions in Portugal along with Madeira, and comprises nine volcanic islands. Its history is vague, but what historians can be sure of is that Europeans had knowledge of the islands according to a map from 1375, but they were not claimed or populated until 1427. There are carvings that may imply human presence as late as 2000 years ago, but this is hotly debated among historians. Nowadays, the islands are well-populated and thrive on tourism and agriculture. About 10% of the landmass has been cultivated, mostly for potatoes, maize, taro and other crops. A staggering 88% of the land are permanent grasslands, perfect for grazing livestock like cows or sheep.

São Miguel Island, nicknamed “The Green Island” (Ilha Verde), is the largest and most populous island in the Portuguese archipelago. The island covers 760 km² and has around 140,000 inhabitants, with 45,000 people residing in Ponta Delgada, the archipelago's largest city.

We have set up a programme with friends living and working in the Azores for a personalised and exclusive discovery of the island from north to south and east to west.

We will meet with key actors for farming, the environment, tourism and development. Descriptions of the estates below are limited - what is to be marvelled at is the landscape, abundant vegetation and flowers, colours, volcanic atmosphere, wild ocean and immersion in nature in its purest state. It is something totally unique !

SUNDAY, June 12 • Ponta Delgada

04:30am *Very early departure (!)* from Convento do Espinho. Lisbon airport- flight for Sao Miguel (40 places booked on the flight). Morning check in at hotel **Grand Atlantico in Ponta Delgada**. Free time and light lunch at the Marina or in town.

03:00pm-07:00pm *Programme starts* with a guided visit of Ponta Delgada.

08:00pm Dinner at the hotel.

MONDAY, June 13 • Whales and Lakes

Morning

08:30am Departure for the **Whale and Dolphin Watching tour** by Catamaran.

Lunch at the local restaurant “Stage”.

01:45pm Meet at the hotel and gather luggage.

Afternoon

Trek to **Lagao do Fogo**,
Visit to **Caldheira Velha** and thermal baths,
Discover **Gorreana Tea** plantations with the owners.

07:00pm Check in at Terra Nostra Hotel in Furnas.

08:30pm Dinner at **Terra Nostra**, “Casino”.

Presentation on Opportunities in the Azores and an Eco lodge project.

Stay at Hotel Terra Nostra.



TUESDAY, June 14 • Center and North-East

09:30am Start from the hotel to visit the **Furnas Caldeiras area and the Furnas lake**,

Visit the Terra Nostra **botanical garden** with a botanist,
Typical “Cozido” lunch at the hotel.

02:00pm Departure by bus to visit the **north-east of the island and a LIFE project (Priolo)**.

05:30pm Back at hotel, time to enjoy a **Thermal bath**.

08:30pm Dinner in Ribeira Grande, Alabote restaurant.

Stay at Hotel Terra Nostra.

WEDNESDAY, June 15 • Farming

09:00am Pick up from the hotel.

Conference at the **Azorean Farmers’ Organization (AASM)** and lunch organised in their restaurant where they serve excellent meat.
We will be invited to visit a farm as well.

End afternoon

Transfer to **Quinta do Pico da Cruz** for a horse show and dinner.
Stay at Hotel Pedras do Mar.

THURSDAY, June 16 • Sete Cidades

08:30am Pick up from the hotel with luggage.

FULL DAY tour at **Sete Cidades** including a hiking tour in the morning
Lunch at a local restaurant, “Lagao Azul”.

Afternoon

Visit of a private estate with a wonderful garden sustainably managed and owned by friends in Caloura and dinner.
Stop at the Caloura beach.

Stay at Hotel Pedras do Mar.

FRIDAY, June 17 • North to South

10:30am Pick up from the hotel.

10:45am visit **Ribeira Grande** and a liquor factory.

12:45pm Light lunch at the hotel.

02:30pm Departure with luggage.

03:00pm Visit **Ceramica Vieira**.


04:00pm departure towards **Arruda pineapple plantation**.

05:00pm Drop off at Ponta Delgada airport.

We will arrive in Lisbon at 10:30pm.

Dress code:

Casually smart for dinners, sport for the day,
good shoes and raincoat

Remember to bring binoculars and camera to observe/photograph the whales, rare trees and plants, volcanic activity, blue skies and the changing lights on the ocean ... 

SAVE THE DATE



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

June 15 - 18
Post tour June 18 - 22



AZORES

Sao Miguel island

- 1 Grand Atlantico hotel, *Ponta Delgada*
- 2 Terra Nostra, *Furnas*
- 3 Pedras do Mar, *Ribeira Grande*



ATLANTIC OCEAN



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