



Garrafeira Alfaia in Lisbon

Finding good wines in Lisbon



Port wine has always been one of Portugal's trademarks abroad, but strangely enough, the Portuguese rarely drink it themselves. According to 'Wine Spectator', the leading magazine on wines in the world, Graham's Vintage Port (2000), is among the ten best wines produced in the world. So it is that Pedro Marques greatly regrets the absence of Port wine in the national family culture.

Pedro Marques runs 'Garrafeira Alfaia' in Lisbon, together with his associate Hilário Castro. Pedro puts this phenomenon mainly down to the lack of promotion and investment of the Portuguese producers in their home market.

A good example has been set by the Portuguese producers of 'normal' (non-fortified) wine. They have invested in production methods and equipment and brought foreign experts to their vineyards. This has resulted in an enormous growth of quality over the last ten years. Examples of this development are the wines of Casa do Santos Lima and

Quinta do Monte d'Oiro (both from the Estremadura region) and of Casa da Ermelinda Freitas (Palmela).

Also of great significance is the fact that many young wine makers, after finishing their education in Portugal, travel to other countries and bring home the knowledge they have gained. As a result the best Portuguese wines really compete with the 'top wines' from other European countries with a wine tradition, like France, Spain and Italy.

'Garrafeira Alfaia' (Rua Diário de Notícias 125, Lisbon) supplies many restaurants and caters for private parties and events.

They work closely together with 'Alfaia' Restaurant, which serves around 400 different Portuguese wines and traditional Portuguese food. They are located in the centre of the traditional 'Bairro Alto' in Lisbon. Readers of *The Portugal News* who have dinner in this Restaurant can enjoy a free after dinner port in the Garrafeira on the other side of the street. Contact Pedro Marques or Hilário Castro for more information on 213 433 079. To make a reservation in the restaurant call 213 429 768.

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'Excellent' does not always mean 'expensive'

Businesses in the Algarve are having to be more competitive to stay successful in the current economic climate here in Portugal.

In the exclusive Quinta Shopping centre, located in the luxury resort of Quinta do Lago, one restaurant has taken the decision to offer it's high standard of Italian cuisine and service at more affordable prices. Tarantino's, until recently, was luxury dining afforded by a select few, but they have now taken a brave step to reduce the prices of their menu to attract a larger range of clientele, but have undertaken not to lose any of the quality of the dishes, ambience and service that their existing customers already appreciate.

Specialising in modern Italian cooking with some Oriental twists the menu offers an excellent choice of fish and meat dishes and an extensive choice of pasta dishes with linguine and fresh crab being a favourite. From *Foie gras bruleé* to Chinese style duck and tropical fruit salad to Tornedos Rossini and Monkfish oven baked in vine leaves to name but a few of their dishes, there is something to suit everyone, and the dessert menu is a must.

The wine list features a good selection of Italian and Portuguese wines with a sensibly priced Santa Cristina, red wine from Toscana as the house wine.

The restaurant is beautifully decorated with an intimate ambience and good service from attentive and friendly waiters. There is also outside dining on the terrace overlooking the Plaza in the summer.

Clients will certainly enjoy a five star dining experience at prices that will make this a favourite restaurant to visit time and time again.

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Come to Garrafeira 'Alfaia' to taste and learn about Portuguese Wines and Ports in the heart of the traditional 'Bairro Alto' in Lisbon.

Readers of *The Portugal News* who have dinner or lunch in Restaurant 'Alfaia' (which serves wonderful traditional Portuguese food) on the other side of the road, can enjoy a **free after dinner Port** in the 'Garrafeira'!

Garrafeira 'Alfaia' is an expert on the Portuguese winemarket and works as a supplier for many restaurants and can also supply to your home or party. Contact Hilario Castro or Pedro Marquês for more information: 213 433 079

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