



QUINTA DOS FRADES



HISTORY

Quinta dos Frades is included in the Douro demarcated region, in the parish of Folgosa, municipality of Armamar and is an example of resistance over time. It has proved its differentiation not only due to its monumentality, being considered one of the largest and most beautiful estates of the left bank of the River Douro, but also because it was one of the wealthiest and most productive farms of Salzedas Monastery, built on its agriculture (olive groves and cereals), fisheries and fortified wine. Indeed, a Quinta dos Frades has canals, fixed fishing structures in the river and a ferry boat, and still has one of the Pombaline landmarks ordered to be placed between 1757 and 1761, to institute the demarcation of the physical limits of the Douro producing region, classified as a Building of Public Interest since 1946. A wooded area was planted in the upper part of this estate and maintained over the centuries, which still exists, as wood was another necessity in the daily life of the monastery, both for domestic use, in the kitchens and for heating, and to fertilise the land, for the animals, for the forges, watermills and ovens.

The oldest references on this estate, at that time still named Quinta da Folgosa, date back to the twelfth century with the beginning of its constitution through various purchases and donations of plots of land. In this period, portions of land intended for the planting of vineyards are already mentioned. Decorative elements confirming the link between Quinta da Folgosa and Salzedas Monastery are still visible today, portrayed through the existing coat of arms of the Cistercian Order on the estate.



Coat of Arms of the Autonomous Congregation of the Cistercians of Saint Bernardo of Alcobaca and the Pombaline Landmark, Quinta dos Frades

In contrast to so many others that ended up in the hands of foreign owners, Quinta dos Frades has always remained in the possession of Portuguese families, in this way honouring its origins and history. Another aspect that differentiates this estate from the majority of farms that belonged to the Monasteries lies in the fact that Quinta dos Frades was administered directly by the monks of Salzedas and was not a leased farm. Wine was not only part of the dietary trilogy of the monks (bread, wine and olive oil) but it also assumed a religious dimension, as it was used in the celebration of Holy Communion and Mass. Hence, this is why monks have engaged in winemaking since times gone by, as was the case on this estate.

Various peculiar aspects have characterised this estate over time, crossing through and continuing beyond several controversial moments of our history. The estate was also honoured by the presence of illustrious figures, especially with respect to its owners, from the Cistercian monks to the families of the nobility closely connected to the Portuguese Crown such as the Coutinhos, that had various

properties in this zone, some of which were to become part of this estate, to the Baron of Folgosa (the first owner of the estate following the extinction of Salzedas Monastery and the sale of the estate at a public auction in 1841), as well as visitors such as Guilhermina Suggia, which visited the estate on account of the connections of this prestigious cellist with the Delfim Ferreira family.

After the turbulent period of Liberalism, which culminated in the extinction of the Religious Order, the assets of the Convents and Monasteries were put up for sale with an inventory having been made for this purpose of all their assets, namely the estates and farms they possessed. Quinta dos Frades was put up for public auction various times due to its high value, having been valued at 42 million réis in 1834, by which time it had houses, a warehouse, chapel, wine and olive presses, a watermill, in addition to vineyards, olive groves, orchards and a wood, numerous barrels and casks of wine that was bottled in the warehouse as well as a ferry boat.

At the time of the acquisition of the estate by the Baron of Folgosa in 1841 for the sum of 73,150,000 réis, it was coveted by looters. There are reports of an episode featuring José Teixeira, better known as Zé do Telhado [Rooftop Zé], who had fought on the side of the Marechais in the rebellion of 1837, and later in 1846 joined the popular forces during the Maria da Fonte uprising. After these insurgencies he returned home and, upon encountering money problems, was compelled to embark on a life beyond the pale of the law. The Civil Governor of the district of Lamego, having learnt of Zé do Telhado's intention to burgle Quinta da Folgosa (the present Quinta dos Frades) in 1852, immediately contacted the Administrator of the municipality of Mesão Frio, informing him of the plan to break in and rob the property instigated by a mob of criminals led by Zé do Telhado, who intended to sack and destroy it. In order to thwart the accomplishment of this plan, a force of 25 Number 9 Infantrymen armed with bayonets was sent to the site and all the other administrators of the Douro municipalities were notified.

Quinta dos Frades features in the most important maps of the time, such as the Mappa das Terras vezinhas ao rio Douro [Map of Land Bordering on the River Douro] dated 1756 produced by the Companhia Geral das Vinhas do Alto Douro; the Mapa de Configuração do rio Douro [Map of Configuration of the River Douro] dated 1790 by Jacinto José de Sousa included in a manuscript in the Biblioteca Nacional, where it is named Quinta dos Frades de Salzedas; the Mappa do Paiz Vinhateiro do Alto Douro [Map of the Wine Producing Country of the Upper Douro] dated 1843; and the Mappa do Troço do Douro [Map of the Douro Stretch] dated 1848 where it is named Quinta dos Frades de São Bernardo, both created by the Baron of Forrester. Later, in 1894, the Viscount of Villa Mayor also refers to Quinta da Folgosa in his work "*O Douro Ilustrado*" [The Douro Illustrated].

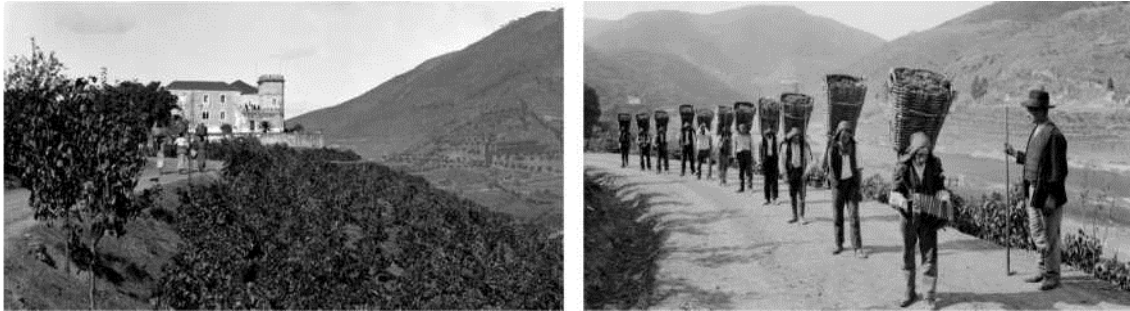


Mappa do Paiz Vinhateiro do Alto Douro [Map of the Wine Producing Country of the Upper Douro], Baron of Forrester, 1843

The architecture of the stately home, with its military inspiration transpiring in the turrets and crenellations, alongside six naval artillery weapons manufactured in English used in ships, dated around the late eighteenth century / first half of the nineteenth century existing at Quinta dos Frades.

was due to the fact that its owner Jerónimo de Almeida Brandão e Sousa (Baron of Folgosa) had secured a distinguished military career and a strong connection to the Portuguese Crown, taking up the role of defender of Queen D. Maria II, who in fact bestowed upon him the title of baron.

The main estate remained in the possession of the Baron of Folgosa's heirs up to 1941, with a part (lands and house) close to Temi-lobos belonging to the wine merchant Manuel Moreira de Barros, managing partner of Hutcheson & C^a Ltd.



Photographs of the 1930s - Quinta dos Frades

In that year, in November 1941, Quinta dos Frades was bought by another illustrious Portuguese personality, Commander Delfim Ferreira, an important industrialist and driver of the Portuguese economy, who was to play an important role in the country's development, especially in the 1940s and 1950s. His heirs, currently the 4th generation, are the present owners of the estate. Apart from Quinta dos Frades, in that same year Quinta do Castelo was acquired, located in the parish of Sanhoane, municipality of Santa Marta de Penaguião, both to become owned by Empresa Predial Ferreira & Filhos, S.A., incorporated by Delfim Ferreira in 1939, which currently also owns 13 buildings for residential, trade and service purposes, situated in central Lisbon, whose construction was ordered by the Commander during the 1940s through to the 1960s.

Delfim Ferreira, son of the distinguished industrialist Narciso Ferreira, born on 13 December 1888, in Riba d' Ave, municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão, deceased 25 September 1960. With a well-defined vision, this industrialist dedicated himself above all to the textile industry (Mindelo and Arcozelo Factory), the hydroelectric energy sector (Varosa Hydroelectric Power Plant, Ermal Hydroelectric Power Plant, Douro Hydroelectric Power Plant) and civil construction. Delfim Ferreira was responsible for the construction of emblematic buildings in Porto and Lisbon, among which Hotel Infante Sagres and Palácio do Comércio in Porto and was also the owner of Casa de Serralves which he bought in 1955, having remained in his family up to 1987, when it was sold to the State.



Delfim Ferreira

His merit and skills in industrial innovation were recognised by the Nation's Government, which awarded him the rank of Commander of the Order of Industrial Merit in 1930, Commander of the Order of Christ in 1933, Grand Officer of the Order of Industrial Merit in 1948 and the Grand Cross of the Order of Industrial Merit in 1951, and he also received a Gold Medal from the City Council of Vila de Conde in 1951.

As the visionary and enterprising man that he was, he also introduced innovative elements in the estate, endowing it with modern production and agricultural infrastructures (warehouses, wine and olive presses, alembic, distillery, watermill, laboratory) and leisure infrastructures such as the construction of swimming pools, changing rooms and a tea house. It was also under his guidance that new methods of rotation and planting were introduced, replacing the narrow traditional vineyards along walled terraces by plantations on freely falling slopes.

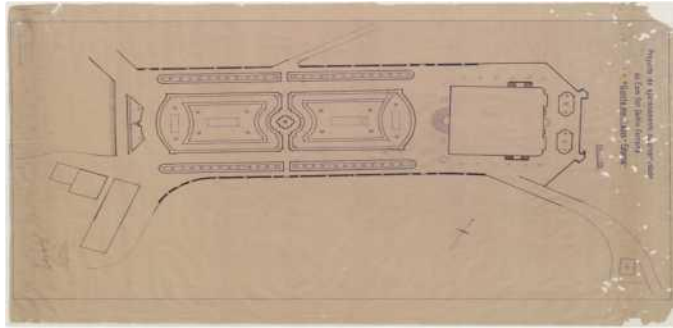


Photographs of Delfim Ferreira at Quinta dos Frades, 1940s and 1950s

The rehabilitation project of Quinta dos Frades, including the stately home, was entrusted to the renowned architect Rogério de Azevedo, the same designer, among other projects, of the emblematic Hotel Infante Sagres, as noted above, whose construction was also ordered by Delfim Ferreira.

In this restoration of the stately home the original façade was kept, and special care was taken with its interior structure, decoration and furniture, implying that everything had to be designed and produced manually by highly skilled craftsmen/women in the art of woodworking. The interiors show naturalist motifs, from the furniture and coffered ceilings to the fireplace in the dining room.

Delfim's project also involved the construction of a garden, designed by the illustrious Horticulturalist and Landscape Designer Jacinto de Mattos, one of the most eminent Portuguese landscape gardeners of the first half of the twentieth century. The garden was embellished with works of art, among which two sculptures which are attributed to the sculptor António Soares dos Reis, as well as the restitution of historical elements such as the two coats of arms of the Cistercian Order which authenticate the antiquity of this estate. Everything was thought out and designed down to the tiniest detail.



Garden Design Plan of Quinta dos Frades, Jacinto de Mattos, 1942

Quinta dos Frades also has an eighteenth century chapel, dedicated to Saint Bernard who was closely connected to the Cistercian Order. This chapel was built during the period of residence of the Monks of Salzedas Monastery, to which this estate was donated, according to the references in the Parish Memoires of 1758 *"It has a chapel to Saint Bernard which is beyond the hamlet inside an estate which belongs to the Cistercian friars of Santa Maria de Salzedas. To whose chapel comes the clamour of this parish on Tuesday of the week of the Litanies of May"*. In other words, in 1758 this chapel already existed and mass was celebrated in it on Tuesdays. Indeed, in 1951 there is a written account of mass still being held in the chapel and testimonies of descendants of the family of Delfim Ferreira mention that the Commander himself insisted that some of the poorer inhabitants of Folgosa should celebrate their weddings there, offering the estate and chapel for this purpose.



Chapel of Saint Bernardo, Quinta dos Frades

During the 1970s the estate underwent some alterations due to the construction of Bagaúste Dam and the re-routing works of the E.N. 222 national road, when an area of around 8 hectares was expropriated. The existing vineyards below the stately home, which were among the most ancient, ended up submerged. Nowadays, the estate involves an area of around 200 hectares.

There are several oral reports that during the period immediately following the 25 April 1974 the estate was occupied by the troops of the PREC [Ongoing Revolutionary Process] and Committees of the MFA [Armed Forces Movement], similarly to what happened in other estates of the Douro.

Oral testimonies given by inhabitants of the parish of Folgosa also recount that Quinta dos Frades is one of the estates with strongest links to the parish, as in the past it provided employment for many people and contributed to the development of the parish of Folgosa and municipality of Armamar in terms of its economy and tourism. Moreover, Commander Delfim Ferreira funded various works to upgrade the roads and railways around Folgosa as well as in Régua where there is a bust of him in gratitude for his charitable deeds, a tribute also paid by the Fire Brigade of Régua which named their headquarters Delfim Ferreira in 1970.

This property still maintains the characteristic structure of an estate, with a residential area composed of the stately home, caretaker's house, the cottages of the permanent or seasonal workers, the kitchen and refectory; a production area full of vineyards and other crops such as olive and fruit trees; the manufacturing and storage area consisting of olive and wine presses, winery, alembic and warehouses; the sales and administration area with its office; as well as the cultural and welfare area composed of the chapel.



Warehouses and winery of Quinta dos Frades

Since 2008, after a period of restructuring carried out by the current administration, there has been an ongoing project to promote and enhance the value of Quinta dos Frades, both through studying its history and assets, and via the production of the first table wine, a red wine branded "Quinta dos Frades Vinhas Velhas Grande Reserva tinto 2008", launched at the end of 2010, which was distinguished with the Award of Excellence 2010 and Revelation Producer Award of 2011, by the magazine Revista de Vinhos. In 2012 "Quinta dos Frades 2009" was also awarded a gold medal by the Enologists' Forum. Two more brands of table wine were launched, the red wine "Vinha dos Deuses" in 2010, in the red and white wine "Vinha dos Santos" in 2011, and the red wine "Vinha dos Arcanjos". The red wine "Vinha dos Santos Douro 2011" was distinguished with the Good Purchase Award 2013. More recently, a special edition was launched in honour of Commander Delfim Ferreira, the "Grande Reserva Comendador Delfim Ferreira 2011", in an edition of 2700 bottles which received the Best of Portugal of the Douro Region of 2016 award, attributed by the magazine Revista de Vinhos. In addition to its own-brand table wines, Quinta dos Frades continues to produce Port wine for other prestigious national brands, as it has always done over the many centuries of its existence.



Quinta dos Frades Table Wine