

Blending quality wines with inspirational art

By ELOISE WALTON

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A NEWLY refurbished Quinta near Lagoa, which is launching its own exclusive range of wine combined with sculpture gardens and a large animal enclosure, will be opening its doors to the public in June.

Quinta dos Vales, located in Estombar, is a newly restored and renovated family owned historic wine and fruit estate of around 500,000sqm.



Karl Stock, a former real estate business founder has refurbished the Quinta dos Vales wine farm
Photo: ELOISE WALTON

Karl Stock, a retired German businessman, and his wife Irina, a Russian former university lecturer, decided to buy the rundown property a year ago and then spent an estimated seven million euros on its renovation.

"What we have created here is truly unique," said Karl. "It is a fully functional wine and art farm, which supports itself by accepting tourists who will live in a working environment."

On the farm itself, the family grow vines and produce a variety of high quality wines, which have been made under the supervision of professional oenologists and can be tasted on-site in the newly renovated tasting room. "To produce excellent quality wine is a challenge, and I like challenges," said Karl. "Our first wines will be bottled this summer."

In order to produce quality wines including red, red reserve, white and rosé, the couple invested in completely new equipment, including new oak barrels from France. As well as the many varieties of vines at the farm, including Touriga Nacional, Caribernet Sauvignon, Aragonez, Arinto, and a variety of fruit trees have been planted, such as plums and peaches.

"We have removed the orange trees because they consumed far too much water and are not adapted to the region's climate," said Karl.

Sculptures

Inspiring and colourful sculptures, some up to four metres in height, are positioned all around the gardens of the farm and can be seen from the main EN125 road.

"The combination of art and good wine has always been important for our family," said

Karl, who is hoping to provide a rich and stimulating cultural experience to visitors.

"I have cultivated a passion for sculptural art since the 80s and am delighted to now be able to realise my dream of sculpting with a group of interesting international artists to produce some provocative and outstanding pieces," he said.

Combining the theme of wine and art, each year the labels of the wine will feature a logo which reflects one of a series of sculptured plaques placed on the main building at the Quinta and designed to "symbolise mankind's search to achieve perfection".



Inspiring sculptures decorate the gardens at Quinta dos Vales
Photo: ELOISE WALTON

Quinta dos Vales also has a large area reserved for animals, which include black pigs, wild boar, sheep, horses, ponies, ducks, geese and more. There is a herd of 15 deer on the property and the family are importing llamas and kangaroos because they are well adapted to the Algarve climate. This will all be open to visitors at certain times on selected days.

The property offers holiday homes to rent for people to experience the combination of life on a functioning farm with luxury and tranquillity in beautiful surroundings.

For more information about Quinta dos Vales, please telephone 282 431 036 or visit the website, available in English at www.quintadosvales.eu. The farm is located at Sitio dos Vales in Estombar, near Lagoa.