



NEWSLETTER
October 2015

In October, Madeira hosts several cultural and sporting events that will provide entertainment to these still sunny days of autumn.

The mild climate and pleasant temperature, which can still be felt this month, invite you to a relaxing swim or an invigorating walk through the trails and "levadas" scattered around the island, the stage, par excellence, of the lush Laurissilva forest.



awaits you!

**Madeira Nature Festival
Until October 11th**

Over the course of one week, Madeira promotes yet edition of the Madeira Nature Festival which, along with its visitors, celebrates the best of what the island has to offer.

Both on land, in the air or at sea, there are plenty of choices for everyone to experience a range of activities, among a series of offers for all age groups.

In addition to these activities, there are many others, in a festivity that brings together sports, entertainment, ethnography and Madeiran culture.

Nature in its purest state is more than beautiful, it is a challenge that



**6th Madeira Organ Festival
9th to 18th of October**

The Regional Directorate for Culture promotes the Madeira Organ Festival, organizing concerts, headlined by nationally and internationally renowned Master Organ players, the concerts will be held in local liturgical areas of reference, namely Funchal's Cathedral (Sé), Colégio Church and Santa Clara Convent.

This festival, now in its sixth edition, aims at presenting this project, developed in the framework of recovering an almost unknown heritage, as well as enriching and promoting the decentralization of the organ's cultural offer within the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

Read further information at: <http://www.festivaldeorgaodamadeira.com>



**Chestnut Festivity
31st of October until the 1st of November**

Organised by Casa do Povo of Curral das Freiras, this festivity serves as an opportunity to foster and promote this major agricultural production in the region.

The Chestnut Fest is a show that invites you to taste the many gastronomic specialties made from this nut: roasted chestnuts, liquors and cakes.

This event will also promote a gastronomic contest in local restaurants serving traditional food.



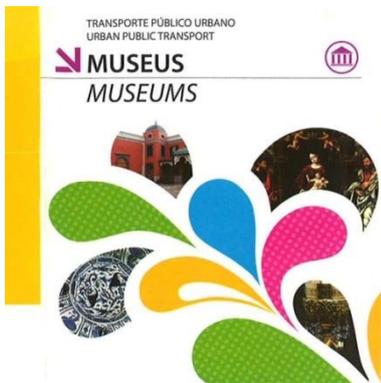
The Old "Molhe" fortress reopens this month

The Fortress of Our Lady of Conceição, in Pontinha, will be reborn around mid-October, with a project signed by international interior designer Nini Andrade Silva.

A modern Designer Centre complemented by a museum designed by Nini Andrade Silva and a modern gourmet restaurant run by renowned Chef Miguel Laffan are the main lures in this project, which aim to provide the capital city of Funchal with a quality space of reference.

Construction of this fortress occurred around the first quarter of the 17th century, at the top of the islet that forms part of the Port of Funchal. The importance of this monument lies not only in its great history and beauty, not only from an architectural perspective, but also

from a scenic point of view, with a privileged view over the bay of Funchal.



HF promotes Cultural Tourism

The transportation company *Horários do Funchal*, together with several hotels and museums of Funchal's city centre, launched its latest project directed to the cultural tourism segment - the "[Tourist Kit](#)", project, as part of the SEEMORE project (2012-2015).

This initiative aims at giving a greater visibility to the rich cultural heritage of the Region in a 'cultural journey' that will contribute to the promotion of the museum estate of Funchal's city centre.

Thus, when purchasing a ticket, you receive a map and a bilingual leaflet with information on several museums in the city, which will make it possible to get discounts in the admission tickets of these cultural spaces.



Madeira Hotels win "Tourism Oscars"

The excellent quality of the Madeira hotel has been consistently recognised, not only for its customer loyalty but also by major tour operators and companies linked to the sector, which certify such quality through the awarding of prizes at various levels.

Madeira received a total of 4 awards at the 2015 World Travel Awards, a ceremony that took place on the 6th of September in Sardinia (Italy).

Among the winners are the hotels Choupana Hills Resort & Spa in the categories of Europe's Leading Boutique Resort and Portugal's Leading Spa Resort, the The Vine Hotel in the category of Europe's Leading Design Hotel and the Pestana Porto Santo All Inclusive & Spa Beach Resort in the category of Portugal's Leading Resort.



Did you know...

... that Laurissilva, the indigenous forest of Madeira, dates from the Tertiary Period?

Recognised as World Natural Heritage by UNESCO in 1999, Laurissilva is considered a living legacy, as, in light of the glaciations which occurred at the beginning of the Quaternary period, which led to its almost total extinction in continental Europe, its existence was reduced to the geographical area of Macaronesia, i.e., comprised by the archipelagos of Madeira, Azores, Canary islands and Cape Verde.

Two-thirds of Madeira's territory, the equivalent of 67% of its surface, is considered a protected area, which natural reserve includes a luxurious vegetation embraced by various unique species in the World.

The Madeira Laurissilva Forest includes the Madeira National Park with the maximum status of Integral Reserve. Get to know this natural treasure, accessing here: [Nature](#)