



## **National Palace of Pena opening at night to celebrate Saint Valentine's**

- Monument to open its doors on the night of 14 February**
- Event includes guided tours, enriched with musical interludes**
- St. Valentine's Day ends with dinner in the Palace restaurant**
- Prior reservation is necessary**

*Sintra, 23 January 2018* - The National Palace of Pena is to throw open its doors on the night of 14th February to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. For couples opting to commemorate this occasion in these idyllic settings, there is a very special program that includes a guided tour of the monument, enlivened with a musical interlude in the Great Hall before dining in the restaurant.

Following sunset, participants are taken through the main areas of the Palace, the very pinnacle of 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanticism in Portugal, in a nocturnal incursion taking you in discovery of both the history and the leading figures of this monument that emerged out of the creative genius of Ferdinand II.

In the Great Hall, the most representative venue within the Palace, couples get the chance to enjoy a musical moment, performed by the São Carlos National Theatre piano maestro, Nuno Margarido Lopes, the soprano, Ana Cosme, and the tenor João Rodrigues, themselves members of the São Carlos National Theatre Choir. Seeking to establish a relationship with the surrounding location, the program essentially draws upon works by composers from the Romantic period such as Giuseppe Verdi, Gaetano Donizetti, or Vianna da Mota, thus evoking the times when the Portuguese pianist and composer would play four-handed works with the Countess of Edla (second wife of Ferdinand) for the king's enjoyment in the Palace of Pena.



The voyage through the imaginary of this monument comes to a close with dinner in the Palace restaurant, which is not only especially decorated but also serving a special menu for Saint Valentine's Day.

Participation in this event costs €95 per person with reservations made either by telephone (+351 21 923 73 00) or by email ([info@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto:info@parquesdesintra.pt)).

### **Program**

• **7pm | 7.15pm | 7.45pm | 8pm**

Guided tour of the Palace of Pena, with a musical performance in the Great Hall lasting about 10 minutes/per visit group

Performers:

Soprano – Ana Cosme

Tenor - João Rodrigues

Pianist - Nuno Margarido Lopes

• **From 8.30**

Dinner in the Restaurant

Menu\*:

Welcome drink

Cream of pumpkin soup with aromatic olive oil and toasted almonds

Salmon steak in a lemon and caper sauce, pureed carrot and spinach

Turkey breast stuffed with dried fruits and Arabic rice

"Saint Valentine's Cake"

White and red wine

Medium-dry sparkling wine

Café

\* Vegetarian menu also available

• **From 7pm to 11pm**

Welcoming participants

Opening of the Palace store

- **Price:** €95/ per person (payable on reservation)

- **Prior reservation required:** [info@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto:info@parquesdesintra.pt) ; +351 21 923 73 00



- End -

#### **About Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua**

Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A. (PSML) is an entirely state owned company founded in 2000 in order to meet the challenges arising out of the UNESCO classification of the Sintra Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage site. The entity does not resort to the State Budget and the restoration and maintenance of the heritage in its care are ensured by the revenues resulting from sales at its ticket offices, stores, cafeterias and the rental of facilities for the hosting of events. In 2017, the sites managed by PSML (the Park and National Palace of Pena, the National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz, the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, the Moorish Castle, the Palace and Gardens of Monserrate, the Convent of the Capuchos and the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) welcomed around 3.2 million visits, around 80% of whom were international in origin. In 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, PSML was distinguished with the World Travel Award for the “World’s Leading Conservation Company”.

The PSML shareholders are the General Directorate of the Treasury and Finance (representing the Portuguese state), the Portuguese Institute of Nature and Forestry Conservation, the Portuguese Tourism Board and Sintra Municipal Council.

[www.parquesdesintra.pt](http://www.parquesdesintra.pt) / [www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra](https://www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra)

#### **Information for the Press:**

Communication office Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua

Susana Quaresma: [susana.quaresma@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto:susana.quaresma@parquesdesintra.pt) / +351 21 923 73 26 / +351 96 276 20 83

Filipa Moroso: [filipa.moroso@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto:filipa.moroso@parquesdesintra.pt) / +351 21 923 73 26 / +351 92 684 36