



Get to know our Member: Albergue do Bonjardim

During their trip around the world in 1988, Huub and Wil Lenders fall in love with Portugal. In 1989, the Dutch couple migrates from the Netherlands to central Portugal to realize their dream to produce wine and run a bed & breakfast. They bought the completely run-down wine estate the Quinta da Portela, which dates back to 1756. All efforts which were put into rebuilding it belong to history. What counts are the results: a luxury-based Turismo de Habitação bed & breakfast in the manor house and an internationally acclaimed wine brand Bonjardim. Fun fact: in 1990, the then chairman of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce Mr. Karthaus was the very first guest of the Albergue do Bonjardim bed & breakfast.

Huub and Wil's aim is to add value to the region by producing organic boutique wines, following local traditions and respecting nature. The Bonjardim wine production is limited to three hectares, producing only 35 hl per hectare; the focus is on special top-notch wines. Huub and Wil employ local workforce for their labor-intensive organic vinification process. The Albergue do Bonjardim passion pours through the entire winemaking process: from carefully selecting grapes to traditional vinification in granite tanks and from bottling and labeling at the wine estate itself to personally marketing the wines at wine tastings all over Europe. Huub: 'The Bonjardim wines' unique terroir is harnessed by natural vines, a special microclimate and the use of organic products. Our certificate of organic produce is a sacred document'.

Albergue do Bonjardim is located in the village of Nespéral, the geographical center of Portugal, about 180 km from Lisbon and Porto. Literally translated, Albergue do Bonjardim means 'Inn of the Beautiful Garden'. The little village is surrounded by pine trees, vineyards and hills. On the grounds of the Albergue do Bonjardim wine estate, which is about 12 hectares, you can walk in the vineyards and the forest. You can also enjoy the Bonjardim wines on the terrace. If you drink this wine you protect a little part of the cultivated land of our globe and stimulate the balance between people, nature and economy. It is the philosophy that makes the wine an adventure to taste. Offer this wine to your best relation and add Bonjardim's story to yours.



The Solar and its apartments are decorated in traditional Portuguese country style. Wil: 'We offer our guests personal attention and a unique experience, not just a room'. It is exactly that secret that gets the Albergue do Bonjardim country inn excellent reviews from guests on TripAdvisor, Trivago, Booking.com and other tourism portals. On top of that, the Albergue do Bonjardim is one of the first in Portugal to take part in the 'glamping' (glamorous camping) trend by installing two beautiful safari lodges overlooking the vineyards. They offer the luxury of an apartment and the charm of a camping tent in the middle of nature.



The Albergue do Bonjardim's sustainability philosophy is realized with good practices like solar energy, natural waste compost, organic wine production, home-grown foods, involvement of the local community and slow food. Dinners are prepared with local ingredients and a fusion of Portuguese and other traditions. Huub and Wil also organize wine courses and wine tours. Their efforts have the goal to put the unknown central region of Portugal on the wine and tourism map. The unique family business offers tailor-made services: the Albergue do Bonjardim provides a group event room that can cater for conferences, meetings, challenging team-building activities and unique weddings. Who wouldn't want to visit this little piece of paradise in the centre of peaceful Portugal?



Albergue do Bonjardim's awards and distinctions:

In 2007-2015, the Bonjardim wines have been awarded 7 silver medals and 3 gold medals at the Wine Masters Challenge (Portugal), Femmes et Vins (Monaco), Mundusvini (Germany) and Catavinum World Wine and Spirits Competition (Spain). Also, the bed & breakfast won a Zoover Certificate of Excellence Award, based on reviews of guests.

In 2016, Huub and Wil became national wine producer of the year in Portugal. This prestigious award is based on quality, sustainability and innovation criteria. Its entirely Portuguese jury consists of the Portuguese Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Sea, and Forestry & Rural Development, the agricultural college of Lisbon and national farmers, retailers and environmental organisations and is sponsored by retail giant Intermarché.

In 2017, the Bonjardim wines won a Portugal Wine Trophy and an Asia Wine Trophy. However, the highest 'award' has been the selection of the Bonjardim wines for Dutch King Willem Alexander and Queen Maxima's recent state visit to Portugal.

Watch a video from Albergue do Bonjardim wine estate here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IybYi8gyj8U>

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