



Torre de Palma Wine Hotel's history is rich and worth reading. Romans, Masters of the Avis Order, members of Portugal's royal dynasty and even a post-revolution agricultural cooperative have all been part of the estate's history.

But let us start from the beginning. The first period coincides with the 1st century AC when the Romans inhabited these lands - where they stayed until the 5th century. These were the times of the powerful Basili family, wealthy landowners dedicated to the production of wine and olive oil as well as to the breeding of horses. They would regularly use the commercial route between Lisbon, Merida and Rome, an excellent means to sell products and horses at the time. It is believed that the Lusitano horse has had its origins in the estate.

The Basili's were considered an intellectually superior family, also interested in culture. Proof of that are the tri-dimensional mosaic tiles which can be found in the estate, probably the largest in the Iberian Peninsula. Among them one finds the Horse, the Muse and the Bacchus Procession tiles currently exhibited at the National Archaeology Museum (in Lisbon). Also, the Horse tiles series depict details of Palma.

The second period starts in 1277 when the Avis Order established itself in the region. In 1338, the estate became part of the Crown of Portugal, namely Pedro Afonso, King D. Dinis's bastard son and his preferred, educated by Queen Isabel (who later became a Saint). Pedro Afonso received these lands from their brother, King Afonso IV.

Torre de Palma belonged to the Portuguese Crown for over 500 years. Only in 1863 a wealthy merchant of Lisbon, Jacinto da Silva Falcão, buys and rents it to the Family Costa Pinto for about 80 years.

The family was deeply involved in agriculture, namely in the growing of cereals, production of olive oil and livestock. Locals sometimes refer to an expression that is supposed to have been used at the time: "*vais receber o de palma*" (roughly, *you will receive what is from palma*), to designate what was the fairest price, given the renowned family's honorableness.

From a post-occupation 1974 revolution to the present day, the third phase of the story begins with the 1974 revolution, after the Costa Pinto family leave in December 1973 and its subsequent occupation by the workers. These lands became so the first collective production plant in Alentejo being delivered to employees for several years.

After this period a court dispute starts, culminating in 2007, and later purchased by the current owners of Torre de Palma - Ana Isabel Rebelo and Barradas Paulo Rebelo.

Paulo's mother's origins are rooted in this part of the Alentejo - hence their strong connection with these lands. They left the Alentejo and moved to Coimbra where his mother – Maria Teresa Barradas, a collector of art and design. They did not come back to the Alentejo, as they so much wished, so, in a kind of tribute to his parents, Paulo and Isabel decided to start a new project here. The present Torre de Palma Wine Hotel has exactly the same purpose as it had originally: to be a working site, where wine and olive oil are produced, horses are bred and guests are welcomed to stay in a house with many thousands of years of history.

The architecture of João Mendes Ribeiro and a long research work allowed to harmonize the spaces with modern and functional solutions, making this property one of the best rural hotels in the country.

The hotel's interior design reflects the region's history. Rosarinho Gabriel, the project's interior designer, was responsible for the unique restoration work of some of Maria Teresa Barradas art pieces. This challenge was entirely and beautifully accomplished as these objects were scattered throughout the hotel in perfect harmony with other decoration elements and details.

Inspired by the Roman way of life, Torre de Palma is here to be your home in the Alentejo!

Interesting data:

- Torre de Palma's nearby Roman ruins may be visited and are the remains of some of the Peninsula's largest baptisteries;
- NASA believes that life on Earth may have started at Cabeço de Vide, a neighboring village. Various studies have been made to find that local atmosphere attributes (such as the water's pH: 11.5) are identical to a region in the United States and to the planet Mars only;
- Some foreign organized groups have visited the estate in the past as they believe Torre de Palma is a centre where highly positive energies converge.

