25th September

The Palace of Queluz commemorates the 180th anniversary of the death of King Pedro IV with a new museum project

- Pedro IV: King of Portugal and the First Emperor of Brazil
- New museum project in the room where Pedro IV was born and died
- 48 piece exhibition (highlighting fifteen personal objects)
- Works and pieces loaned by various National Museums
- Launch of a mini-site with an illustrated timeline
- Virtual exhibition included on the Google Art Project: the first of its type in Portugal

Sintra, 22nd September 2014 – On 25th September, Parques de Sintra inaugurates a new museum project in the Don Quixote Room at the National Palace of Queluz within the framework of commemorating the 180th anniversary of the death of Pedro d'Alcântara de Bragança. This room holds enormous symbolic importance as the site where this King of Portugal and the First Emperor of Brazil was both born and, 35 years later, died. This project especially reaches out to Portuguese and Brazilian visitors with the latter already representing 10% of palace visitors and for whom the figure of Pedro and his family surroundings elicits such great interest.

The objective of this museum project consists of studying and duly valuing the Don Quixote Room and its adjoining spaces as well as the life of King Pedro IV through a new museological approach featuring various interpretative formats with a particular emphasis on digital means. Correspondingly, gathered from both the National Palace of Queluz and through loan protocols with institutions such as the National Museum of Ancient Art the National Palace of Ajuda, the National Coach Museum, the Military Museum of Lisbon and the Soares dos Reis National Museum, this exhibition features 48 different works and items. This includes fifteen paintings and miniatures, fifteen of Pedro’s personal objects and nine pieces of furniture.

In addition to the historical and iconographic research and the documental survey carried out (reviewing archive documentation, the daily press and the literature of the
respective period), this six-month long project also involved works of restoration, for example, of the decorative paintings on the walls of the Don Quixote Room (with this space having been subject to reconstruction in the wake of the 1934 fire), the renovation of the museum’s equipment and facilities, the expansion of the security system and improving the lighting system through the installation of an LED system (providing continuity to the objective of reducing energy consumption at the Palace and in better harmony with the intimate room ambience).

This also extended to the restoration of Pedro’s personal travel desk belonging to the National Palace of Ajuda collection.

This project contextualises both the Don Quixote Room itself and the temporal arch of the life of King Pedro IV, who was directly involved in both the independence of Brazil and the consolidation of liberalism in Portugal. This correspondingly incorporates information panels and a tablet displaying a 360° image of the room with points of interest then accessing more detailed information about the heritage on display.

In parallel, a mini-site is undergoing launch detailing the chronological biography of King Pedro IV, with period images and documents illustrating his ascending and descending genealogy alongside a selection of twelve of his most emblematic portraits with each corresponding to facts and key events in his life. This mini-site goes online at www.dpedroiv.parquesdesintra.pt as from inauguration day.

The Don Quixote Room derives its name from the 18 decorative paintings adorning its walls depicting episodes in the story of Don Quixote of La Mancha.

**Virtual exhibition**

The most emblematic iconography of this project is also made available for consultation and viewing in high definition in the virtual exhibition complementing this present project. Furthermore, the project becomes the very first Portuguese museum exhibition to be integrated into the Google Art Project.

One special highlight is the watercolour painting by Ferdinand le Feubure that depicts the Don Quixote Room in 1850 and including a written inscription by Princess Maria Amélia, daughter of King Pedro IV: "Chambre où mourut mon père, dans le Palais de Queluz" ("Room where my father died in the Palace of Queluz").
**Lusitânia Seguros supports this exhibition and insures its works of art.**

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**About the National Palace of Queluz**

The National Palace of Queluz and its historical gardens constitute a fine example of the harmonious link between landscape and palatial architecture in Portugal. They illustrate the evolution of court taste in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a time span that takes in the baroque, the rococo and the neo-classical periods. Ordered to be built in 1747 by the future King Peter III, the consort of Maria I, the National Palace of Queluz, which was initially intended to be a summer residence, became a privileged place of leisure and entertainment for the Royal Family, who lived in it permanently from 1794 until their departure for Brazil in 1807 following the French invasions.


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

Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A. (PSML) is a state-owned limited company with exclusively public capital that was created in 2000 following the recognition by UNESCO of the Cultural Landscape of Sintra as a World Heritage Site. The company was created to assemble the public institutions responsible for preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage in Sintra. PSML has been entrusted with the management of the State’s main properties in the area. Because it does not resort to the State Budget, PSML depends entirely on proceeds from the tickets sale, shops, cafeterias and hiring of venues for events, in order to restore, maintain and promote the heritage it manages.

In 2013, the natural and cultural heritage managed by PSML (the Park and 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 approximately 1,700,000 visitors, over 90% of whom were from outside of Portugal.

The shareholders of PSML are the Directorate General of Treasury and Finance (Direção Geral do Tesouro e Finanças - representing the State), the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade - ICNB), the Portuguese Tourism Board (Turismo de Portugal) and the Municipality of Sintra (Câmara Municipal de Sintra - CMS).


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