Sintra, 14 August 2014 – In July, Parques de Sintra published a new book entitled “Portuguese School of Equestrian Art”. Authored by Teresa Abrantes, manager of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art (EPAE), the book includes photographs, the majority of which were taken by Pedro Yglesias de Oliveira.

This publication provides a brief history of the EPAE and contextualises the history of Portuguese equestrianism and the Royal Riding School (the equestrian academy founded by King John V), both of which are inseparable from the Alter Real Lusitano horse. This is the horse exclusively used by the School, originating from the Alter Real Stud Farm, which was founded by King John V in the 18th century to breed and select riding horses. The book also describes the organisation of the EPAE and the work carried out by its riders and horses.

Regarding the activities carried out by the school, the book provides information about the uniforms and harnesses used, the braiding with which the horses are presented in shows, the types of exercises carried out, and the shows performed by the EPAE. The book is available for sale at the shop of the National Palace of Queluz for 17.50 Euros and is bilingual (Portuguese and English) to cater to numerous requests by Portuguese and foreign tourists.

Based in the gardens of the National Palace of Queluz, the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art was founded in 1979 with the goal of encouraging the teaching, practice and promotion of traditional Portuguese equestrianism. It revives the tradition of the Royal Riding School, the equestrian academy of the Portuguese royal court in the 18th century, which used the former Royal Riding Arena of Belém (now the National Coach Museum), and it exclusively rides Lusitano horses from the Alter Real Stud Farm.

In September 2012, the government handed over management of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art, as well as the National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz, to Parques de Sintra.

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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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