Parques de Sintra receives the best practices award in the “Spaces, products and services in use” category from the “Design For All” foundation

- Prize awarded to the “Parques de Sintra Welcomes Better” project
- Distinction for its best practices in inclusive design

_Sintra, 23 March 2016_ – Parques de Sintra has won the best practices award for the “Spaces, products and services in use” category from the “Design For All” foundation for its “Parques de Sintra Welcomes Better” project.

"Design For All" is a non-profit foundation with the objective of researching, developing and promoting studies and best practices across the field of inclusive design. In turn, inclusive design involves interventions in spaces, products and services undertaken with the objective of ensuring the participation of all citizens irrespective of their age, gender, capacities or culture.

The “Parques de Sintra Welcomes Better” project seeks to improve means of access to the properties in the company’s management and set them out as examples of best practice in accessible tourism and equal opportunity in terms of access to both natural and built heritage. This requires the deployment of solutions across the facets of physical access and the provision of inclusive information and services.

More than 22 candidates from a range of countries, and in addition to Parques de Sintra, competed in the “Spaces, products and services in use” category with the other award category, "Projects, proposals, initiatives, methodologies and studies", attracting a total of 13 candidates.

In 2015, the “Design For All” foundation had recognised Parques de Sintra as an example of best practices, which ensured its eligibility as a candidate for the award received yesterday at the “Design For All Foundation Awards 2016” ceremony held in Paris.
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 2014, 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 approximately 1,928,000 visits, around 86% of whom were international in origin. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, 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 or www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra

Press contact details:
Communication office Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua
comunicacao@parquesdesintra.pt
+351 219 237 300