The parks and monuments of Sintra welcome in spring with a music cycle from the Romantic period and a colourful agenda

- 3rd edition of the “Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena” running between 4 and 25 March
- The “Camellia and Orchid Exhibition” returns to the National Palace of Sintra courtyard
- Guided tour of the exhibition “Ferdinand Coburg fecit: the artistic activities of the king-consort”
- Bird ringing in the Farmyard of Monserrate

Sintra, 7 February 2017 – Whether with winter-like mornings or afternoon summers, March celebrates the arrival of spring. In the parks and monuments of Sintra, we are celebrating the most blossom filled time of the year with music from the Romantic era and a colourful and fragrant agenda.

From 4 to 25 March, the “Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena” cycle takes place. On the four Saturdays in this month, the Great Hall of the National Palace of Pena hosts recreations of the musical evenings and their very particular spirit common to the period of Ferdinand II. This third edition counts upon performances by national and international musicians including Vasco Dantas, João Paulo Santos, Christian Hilz, Siphiwe McKenzie and Marco Alves dos Santos, who are to perform works by some of the most brilliant composers of the 19th century, such as Franz Liszt and Johannes Brahms, alongside displays by their contemporary artistic peers such as Alfredo Keil and Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro, in evenings that render harmony between music and image.

Right after, on Sunday, 12 March, at 3pm, there is a guided tour of the exhibition “Ferdinand Coburg fecit: the artistic activities of the king-consort”. This display, ongoing at the National Palace of Pena until 30 April, reveals the artistic work of this monarch and featuring a large number of never before seen drawings, engravings and
manuscript documents acquired by Parques de Sintra in 2012. Throughout the visit, which begins with a general approach to the history of the Palace, participants have the opportunity to explore the taste for experimentation of this artist-king through an unprecedented exhibition that furthermore commemorates the reintegration of the chambers of King Manuel II into the visit route.

On the weekend of 18 and 19 March, the “Exhibition of Camellias and Orchids” makes its return to the National Palace of Sintra courtyard, organised by Parques de Sintra in cooperation with the Portuguese Camellias Association and the Portuguese Orchidophiles Club of Portugal. The display, this year dedicated to tea and the tea camellia, is free to enter within the scope of fostering the botanical value associated with camellias and orchids in Sintra. In addition to the exhibition and sale of these plants, the exhibition also includes demonstrations of propagation and pruning techniques for camellias alongside demonstrations of the propagation, potting and maintenance of orchids as well as tea tasting events.

On the final weekend of the month, on Saturday 25 March, there is the return of the bird ringing sessions, this time in a new scenario: the Farmyard of Monserrate. From 9.30am to midday, participants get to learn about distinguishing between the various species of bird and their main characteristics, observing close up some of the captured examples. This entire process gets accompanied by detailed explanations about each step taken and correspondingly highlighting the importance of the ringing process to the conservation of avifauna. The initiative furthermore marks the International Day of Forests, commemorated annually on 21 March.

PROGRAMMING

“Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena”
Saturday, 4 March to Saturday, 25 March, National Palace of Pena
The third ever edition of the “Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena” cycle takes place between 4 and 25 March at the National Palace of Pena and strives to recover and revitalise the spirit of the musical evenings held there during the time of its creator, Ferdinand II. Nineteenth century musical life shall again echo through the Great Hall of this monument courtesy of a series of national and international performers, including Vasco Dantas, João Paulo Santos, Christian Hilt, Sphiwe McKenzie and Marco Alves dos Santos, who are to play pieces by some of the most brilliant composers of the 19th century whilst accompanied by works from their contemporary artistic peers on evenings that render harmony between music and image.
Further information due shortly for release at: www.parquesdesintra.pt

Guided Tour of the Exhibition “Ferdinand Coburg fecit: the artistic activities of the king-consort” Sunday, 12 March, 3pm, National Palace of Pena
Within the framework of celebrations of the bicentenary of the birth of Ferdinand II, this exhibition unveils the artistic facets to the consort of Queen Maria II. Following a general approach to the history of the palace, the participants gain the opportunity to explore the taste for experimentation of this artist-king, especially across his range of engravings and paintings on ceramics, in a guided tour that leads through an unprecedented exhibition that equally marks the reintegation of the chambers of King Manuel II on the visit route.
- **Target audience:** all age groups
- **Duration:** 2h
- **Price:** adults: €16.5 (entrance ticket €11.5 + guided tour supplement €5) | Young Persons and Seniors: €14 (entrance ticket €9 + guided tour supplement €5)
- **Requires pre-booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants

“Exhibition of Camellias and Orchids”
Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19 March, National Palace of Sintra
On 18 and 19 March, the courtyard in front of the National Palace of Sintra hosts the “Exhibition of Camellias and Orchid”, organised by Parques de Sintra in conjunction with the APC – the Portuguese Camellias Association and COP – the Club of Orchidophiles of Portugal. The display, with free entrance, takes place annually within the framework of promoting the botanical value associated with camellias and orchids in Sintra.
- **Target audience:** all age groups
- **Duration:** from 10am to 6pm
- **Price:** free entrance
- **Further information due shortly for release at:** www.parquesdesintra.pt

Equestrian Art Presentations
Training: regular sessions (schedule available at www.arteequestre.pt/bilheteira)
Gala: 31 March
The Henrique Calado Riding Ring regularly hosts training sessions and gala performances by the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art and that are open to the public.
- **Target audience:** all age groups over six
- **Price:** Galas - €25 // Training – €8 // Presentations – €15
- **Further information available at:** www.arteequestre.pt / info@parquesdesintra.pt / +351 21 923 73 00

There’s Donkeys Here!
Every Saturday in March, 10am, midday and 3pm, Ferdinand II Hunting Grounds (next to the Convent of Capuchos)
Patient, affable and very calm, donkeys are great companions for children and adults on this adventure, which tells the path of history over the course of centuries, explaining the gentleness of these animals that neither kick nor bite (whenever treated with respect), are not nervous (when frightened, they stop still rather than fleeing), are strong and smart. There then follows a walk through the forest: the children get to ride while the parents lead with the reins.
- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged between 3 and 12
- **Duration:** 90mins
- **Price:** €10/participant
- **Pre-booking recommended:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** the donkey walks are subject to cancellation in case of adverse meteorological conditions. Activity available every day of the week following prior reservation.

**Voyage to the Court of the 18th Century**  
**Saturday, 11 March, 3pm, National Palace of Queluz**  
Step by step, participants are invited to get acquainted with all the nooks of the National Palace of Queluz, hear their stories and encounter persons from another epoch. There is music and singing and dancing to the music of the eighteenth century. Learn about how they staged the great parties and celebrations, what clothing and other items were worn in this era and on this site of such enormous beauty and refinement. Learn just how the princes and princesses may not have had schools to go to but still had an awful lot to learn. And many, many more surprises to discover along the way.

- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged 5 or over  
- **Duration:** 2h  
- **Price:** €9/participant  
- **Requires pre-booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt ou +351 21 923 73 00  
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants

**The King’s Treasure**  
**Sunday, 19 March, 3pm, National Palace of Sintra**  
In a palace containing over 700 years of history, replete with secrets for discovery, participants are invited to follow clues, solve riddles and complete tasks to finally work out just what the king’s treasury actually is and just where it is stored. This is a game with clues which simultaneously serves to open up insights into the National Palace of Sintra in a different and surprisingly emotional fashion.

- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged 8 or over  
- **Duration:** 90mins  
- **Price:** €9/participant  
- **Requires pre-booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00  
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants

**Ringing in the Farmyard**  
**Saturday, 25 March, from 9.30am to midday, Farmyard of Monserrate**  
Bird ringing sessions in which participants get to learn how to distinguish between various species of birds via their main distinguishing characteristics and observing the captured examples close up. The entire process, from the placing of the tag through to the registration of all the biometric data through to ascertaining, whenever possible, the gender and age of the birds, may be accompanied by all ages and always with detailed explanations about each stage. This also serves to stress the importance of the ringing process to the conservation of avifauna.

- **Target audience:** all age groups  
- **Duration:** 2.5h  
- **Price:** free  
- **Requires pre-booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00  
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants (with a maximum of 15 persons per group). We would recommend wearing comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate to the climate conditions. The session is subject to last minute cancellation should particularly adverse meteorological conditions prevail.

**Certainly a Most Rustic Farmyard**  
**Sunday, 26 March, 2.30pm, Farmyard of Monserrate**
To discover with your family this small farm located in the midst of the Sintra Hills is to unveil just how life was lived within the rural context of this region.

In the company of monitors, dressed as peasant folk would have done in the 19th century, learn how to make bread in the traditional fashion and, while this bakes in the wood-fired oven, help your hosts out with their daily chores. Gather the eggs from the henhouse and feed carrots to the animals in the field, wander through the orchard and vegetable garden and discover just which fruits and vegetables are in season and, in the herb garden, identify the different tea and herb plants through recourse to the nose, feature among some of the tasks that need doing.

On rainy days, should we need to cut short our stay outdoors and head inside, a scent and smell workshop gets held making perfumed bags that each then takes away. This also extends to telling a story in which all participants get invited to intervene deploying some of the accessories associated with the region’s heritage. At the end, there is that warm bread to try tasting.

- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged between 4 and 10
- **Duration:** 2h
- **Price:** €8/participant
- **Requires pre-booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants

**From the Park to the Hunting Grounds: Nature in Sintra and in Mafra**

Saturday, 18 March, 10am, Hunting Grounds of Monserrate, and 3.30pm, Hunting Grounds of Mafra

Joint visit program to Sintra and Mafra that conveys the diversity of the ecosystems of the Natural Park of Sintra – Cascais – a protected area that spans the Hunting Grounds of Monserrate – and the magnificent, ancient and indigenous forest that proves so characteristic of the National Hunting Grounds of Mafra. In the Hunting Grounds of Monserrate, visitors explore the natural history of the Sintra Hills, the particular microclimate that characterises this area and renders it so mystically special, concepts such as forest food, the ecological succession, invasive species, among others. Over the course of their tour, visitors shall certainly be surprised by the presence of wooden sculptures depicting the medium and large mammals that no longer exist in the Sintra Hills but that in a recent past did inhabit this landscape. In Mafra, along a less explored path, visitors get to view a mature forest and that, due to its protection by a surrounding wall, is able to guarantee excellent conditions to the more vulnerable species, with some at risk of extinction, that feed, breed and find shelter here.

- **Target audience:** all age groups
- **Duration:** 90mins in Monserrate, 2h in Mafra
- **Price:** adults €13/participant | Young persons and seniors: €11/participant | Family (2 adults + 2 children): €45
- **Requires pre-booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants. Visits may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail.

**Feel the Heritage – Discover the Park of Monserrate through the Senses**

Saturday, 25 March, 10am, Park of Monserrate

In amongst the romantic ruins and waterfalls, the visitor gets to discover the Gardens of Monserrate through feeling, hearing and smelling. This makes it possible to touch the water in the waterfalls, to perceive variations in temperature and to learn about various botanical species through feeling textures and sensing exotic odours. In the surroundings of the Palace of Monserrate, this is the opportunity to discover all of the materials making up its facades.

- **Target audience:** focused on blind and visually challenged visitors but also open to everybody interested.
- **Duration:** 90mins.
- **Disabled persons price:** €8.25 (entrance ticket €3.25 + guided tour supplement €5)
- **Regular price:** €11.5 (entrance ticket €6.5 + guided tour supplement €5)
- Requires pre-booking: info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- Note: this activity counts upon the support of ACAPO – the Association of the Blind Amblyopia Sufferers of Portugal. We would recommend wearing comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate to the meteorological conditions prevailing. The visit may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail or adapted to the interiors of the Palace of Monserrate.

The Gardens of Monserrate without Barriers
Saturday, 25 March, 10.30am, Park of Monserrate
Visit targeting persons with mobility restrictions who are here able to explore the gardens with autonomy through recourse to equipment that overcomes the barrier posed by the slopes and facilitates the mobility of manual wheelchairs. This correspondingly enables exploration of the Fern Valley, the Mexican Garden, the Rose Garden, the Lawns and Lakes interspersed throughout the Park of Monserrate.
- Target audience: focusing upon visitors with mobility restrictions
- Duration: 90mins.
- Disabled persons price: €8.25 (entrance ticket €3.25 + guided tour supplement €5)
- Regular price: €11.5 (entrance ticket €6.5 + guided tour supplement €5)
- Requires pre-booking: info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- Note: visitors may either bring their own wheelchairs or make use of a wheelchair provided by Parques de Sintra (without any added cost). Open to those accompanying. The traction equipment adapts to the overwhelming majority of wheelchair makes. The visit may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail.

Sign Language Heritage
Saturday, 25 March, 2.30, Park of Monserrate
Visit to the gardens and Palace of Monserrate with a Portuguese sign language accompanied tour. The visit to the gardens, one of the most beautiful landscape creations of Romanticism in Portugal, which hosts over 3,000 species of plants from the four corners of the world and extending through the Fern Valley, the Mexican Garden, the Rose Garden and the Lawns before ending in the Palace of Monserrate.
- Target audience: focusing upon deaf visitors but open to everybody interested
- Duration: 90mins.
- Disabled persons price: €8.25 (entrance ticket €3.25 + guided tour supplement €5)
- Regular price: €11.5 (entrance ticket €6.5 + guided tour supplement €5)
- Requires pre-booking: info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- Note: this activity counts upon the support and participation of APS – the Portuguese Deaf Association. We would recommend wearing comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate to the weather prevailing. The visit may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail or adapted to the interiors of the Palace of Monserrate.

Horse and pony trekking
Daily, Park of Pena
Horse riding provides visitors with a different means of exploring the routes and paths through the Park of Pena. The duration of the ride may vary from anything between 30 and 90 minutes or extend to between three and six hours. The longer trek programs correspondingly provide the opportunity to visit the other sites under the management of Parques de Sintra and even to scheduling lunch in a particular place. All of these horseback excursions are accompanied by the horse handlers who also serve to guide visitors along the routes.
Reaching a younger audience, Parques de Sintra also runs an activity that enables children to gain their first riding experience on a pony especially trained for this age group and also always accompanied by one of the animal’s handlers.
- **Horse trekking:** €15/30 min, €30/90 min, €50/3h, €100/6h (in addition to the Park of Pena entrance ticket)
- **Pony rides:** €7/15 minutes (in addition to the Park of Pena entrance ticket)
- **Further information available and reservations at:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity remains dependent on the meteorological conditions prevailing
- **Find out more at:** www.parquesdesintra.pt/experiencias-e-lazer/passeios-a-cavalo

**Cart Rides**
**Park of Pena**
Cart rides through the Park of Pena open up a voyage back through time along a route that spans the Fern Valley and the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, passing by the Farm of Pena and the Garden of the Countess of Edla. This ride may be taken on your own or accompanied by a specialist guide. This provides visitors with the opportunity to get up close to the history of this Park and its founders, the botanical and animal species that populate the length of this route as well as the historical buildings and garden nooks dotting the trajectory.
- **These rides may be taken by up to six adults or four adults and four children**
  - During the low season, available only following pre-reservation
  - **Price:** €75/1h (in addition to the entrance ticket to the Park of Pena where these programs take place)
  - **Note:** The running of this activity remains dependent on the meteorological conditions prevailing
  - **Find out more at:** www.parquesdesintra.pt/experiencias-e-lazer/passeios-de-charrete/
  - **Further information available and reservations at:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00

**Exhibition “Ferdinand Coburg fecit: the artistic activity of the king-consort”**
**Open daily, National Palace of Pena**
This exhibition reveals the hitherto unseen and extensive collection of sketches, engravings and manuscript documents acquired by Parques de Sintra in 2012, and alongside other objects incorporated in the meanwhile. The display also contains some of the pieces donated by descendants of the Countess of Edla, the monarch’s second wife, and others loaned by both private and institutional collections such as the National Museum of Ancient Art, the National Palace of Ajuda, the Casa de Bragança Museum-Library and, within the PSML universe, the National Palace of Queluz.
- **Price:** entrance ticket to the National Palace of Pena
- **Find out more at:** http://www.parquesdesintra.pt/event/fernando-coburgo-fecit-a-atividade-artistica-do-rei-consorte

**The Contemporary Art “Point of View” Exhibition**
**Open daily, Park of Pena**
A collective and site specific exhibition with artistic direction by Paulo Arraiano bringing together ten artists with different nationalities but all internationally recognised: Alberto Carneiro (Portugal), Alexandre Farto/Vhils (Portugal), Antonio Bokel (Brazil), Bosco Sodi (Mexico), Gabriela Albergaria (Portugal), João Paulo Seráfico (Portugal), NeSpoon (Poland), Nils-Udo (Germany), Paulo Arraiano (Portugal) and Stuart Ian Frost (United Kingdom).
- **Price:** Entrance ticket to the Park of Pena
- **Further information available at:** www.penapointofview.com
“Stained Glass and Glass Objects: Ferdinand II Passion” Exhibition
Open daily, National Palace of Pena
The exhibition of an impressive set of stained glasses dating to between the 14th and 19th centuries, which includes the oldest stained glass work known in Portugal. There are also examples of the glass objects of the Palace of Pena, one of the most representative collections of the history of European glass existing in Portugal. Recently, this expanded to also include some of the pieces that formerly belonged to the glass collection of King Ferdinand II and that are held in the National Museum of Ancient Art reserve collection.
- Price: Entrance ticket to the National Palace of Pena
- Find out more at: www.parquesdesintra.pt/evento/exposicao-vitrais-e-vidros-um-gosto-de-d-fernando-ii/

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About Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua
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 2016, 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 Edia, the Moorish Castle, the Palace and Gardens of Monserrate, the Convent of the Capuchos and the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) welcomed 2,625,011 visits, around 83% of whom were international in origin. In 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, 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 / www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra

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