

## Hotel Vila Galé Collection Palácio dos Arcos

### The history of the Palace:

Built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and rehabilitated three centuries later, there seem to be no doubt that it was Palácio dos Arcos (literally, “Palace of the Arches”) that gave the name of Paço de Arcos to its town. On its hand, the Palace is “of the Arches” because its two imposing side towers frame a central body with a spacious balcony surrounded, indeed, by arches.

Although the Palácio dos Arcos is often connected to the constant presence of King Manuel I, the Fortunate, and his daughter, for always participating in hunts at the majorat property, there is another fact that makes it be eternally linked to the history of Portugal: tradition says that it was precisely from the balconies of Palácio dos Arcos that King Manuel I saw the Portuguese carracks and caravels leaving on their way to India.

Later on, other kings of Portugal (Ferdinand I, Louis I and Queen Maria Pia) also stayed in this palace frequently in order to, among other activities, attend the famous regattas of Paço de Arcos.

Palácio dos Arcos was built in the late fifteenth century and, initially, it belonged to Antão Martins Homem, the second Captain-major of Vila da Praia. During the eighteenth



century, the palace was rebuilt. In the year 1698, Teresa Eufrásia de Meneses created the majorat of Paço de Arcos, which comprehended Palácio dos Arcos. Many years later, Palácio dos Arcos was acquired by the Lencastre family, whose coat of arms is still displayed on the building’s balcony.

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Palácio dos Arcos has also preserved a chapel with a baroque altar that was devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary from the very start.

Marked by so many stories lived therein by kings and their courts, garish in its golden tone at the entrance of the town of Paço de Arcos, it was reborn just over one year ago as a boutique hotel with a charm that can only compare to the comfort it provides.

### **Privileged location:**

Located on the eastern side of the parish of Paço d'Arcos, right in the town's historic centre, the hotel Vila Galé Collection Palácio dos Arcos is this parish's landmark, the most important parish of the Oeiras municipality, in the Lisbon district.

The magnificent view of the Tagus River in the Lisbon coast and the distance of only 15 minutes from the historic centres of Lisbon and Cascais, makes this a privileged hotel.

### **Facilities and decoration:**



In the renovated interior of what is the first five-star unit of the Vila Galé Group in Portugal, we are confronted at every turn with the poetry of Florbela Espanca, Fernando Pessoa, Vinicius de Moraes, Eugénio de Andrade and many others who became eternal thanks

to excellence of their poems. As one can see, poetry is the dominant theme of this hotel which has revived the spirit of the Palace.

The entrance to the Palácio dos Arcos is made through the palatial building where the reception is located. Soon after, we find the Pessoa Lounge bar flanked by the library, the wine shop and the irresistible restaurant Inevitável, a responsibility of the chef Francisco Ferreira.



The bar, sprinkled with golden and crimson notes, extends along the porch leaning on the marginal street where every afternoon the “Queen Tea” is served.

The stunning original building houses only three rooms and two suites; the remaining 71 bedrooms - three of which are suites - the Satsanga Spa and outdoor pool are located in the modern part of the hotel, which were built from scratch, without any prejudice to the harmony of

the town.

In addition to the leisure facilities, this hotel also offers infrastructures dedicated to the business and events segment.

The Room Luis Vaz de Camões is the main stage of such initiatives, and it has already hosted weddings, baptisms, conferences, meetings and presentations of new market products, among others. In addition to this room, the hotel also offers 2 rooms for smaller events, the third room of the Inevitável restaurant and its mezzanine.



You will surely want to meet the Vila Galé Collection Palácio dos Arcos, a distinctive hotel not only for its facilities' refinement and quality, but also, and particularly, the services provided.

### **Heritage Recovery:**

Palácio dos Arcos is a building of high symbolic value for the Municipality of Oeiras and, in particular, for the town of Paço de Arcos, being the "cornerstone" of its development, and its preservation and comprehensive rehabilitation has always been ensured; and – together with its garden – it is a valuable element of the local architectural heritage.

For centuries, the palace played the manor house function, having been subjected over time to various processes of change and transformation imposed by the very nature of time and the changing ways of living; and, at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, after the death of its last owner, it came into the possession of the Municipality of Oeiras already in a situation of near ruin.

Being a paradigmatic building of the town of Paço de Arcos, its presence on the main access to the historic district, did not match the surrounding building environment.

Its recovery with the construction of a high level of Hotel such as this 5 star unit was undoubtedly an asset for the area in which it operates. As a structural element of the building surroundings, its recovery induced a leverage effect on the remaining owners of the adjacent buildings, and also became a decisive factor in boosting the local shops in the historical centre of Paço de Arcos.

The transformation of the architectural landmark of Paço De Arcos into a 5-star boutique hotel entailed an investment of approximately 10 million euros, considering that it implied rehabilitating the Palace by intact its structure intact, as well as expanding it by building two brand new blocks and recovering the publicly accessible garden.

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