


TINY HOTELS



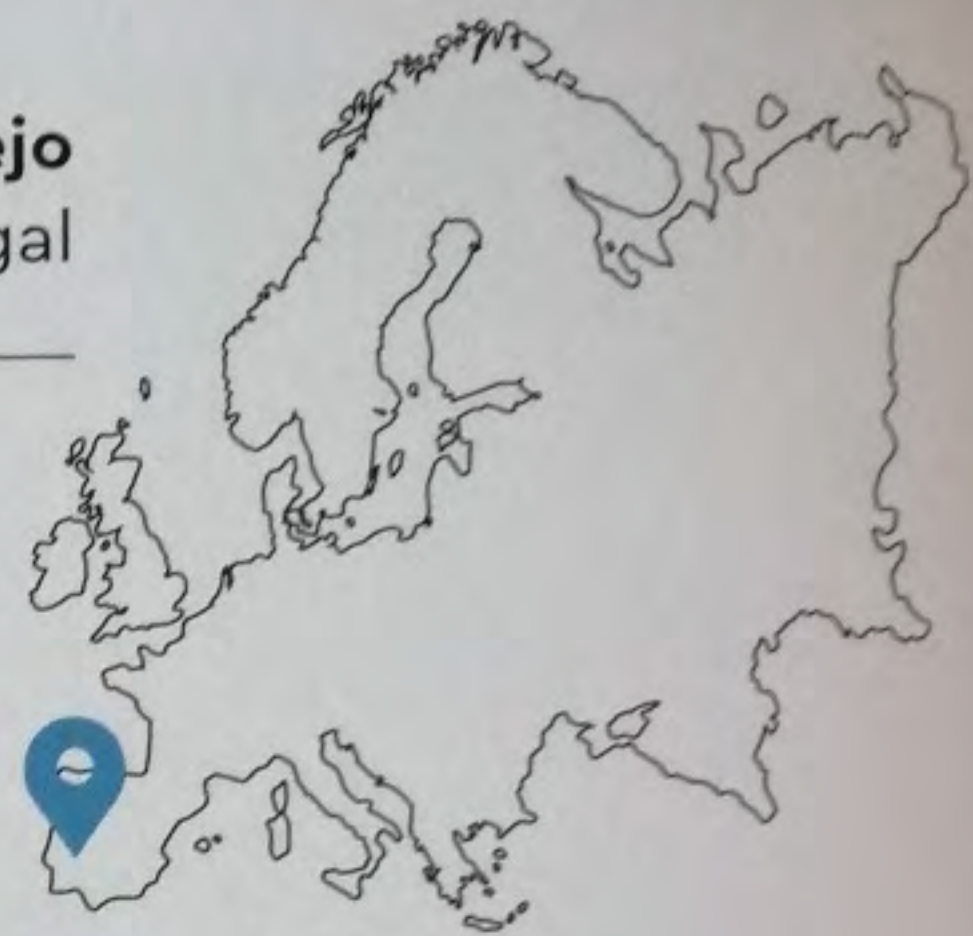
FLORIAN SIEBECK

 PRESTEL

DÁ LICENÇA

5 suites, 4 rooms

Alentejo
Portugal



Vitor Borges and Franck Laigneau left their old life in Paris to start a new one in Portugal. Borges had worked as director for textiles and silk at Hermès, and Laigneau was a gallery owner. They were looking for a place to live in Borges's native Alentejo when they came across a number of 19th-century former farm buildings once run by nuns. "For us, it was love at first sight, the gorgeous views, the untouched nature, the magic of the sunsets", says Borges. They decided to share their discovery with guests. Together with the architecture firm Procale, they breathed new life into the houses. The main house now accommodates four guest rooms, while the outbuildings have been converted into five spacious suites (two of which have their own pool; there are two more pools in the common areas). The rooms (50–180 m²), with floors of brushed granite, whitewashed walls and hand-carved baths in pink marble, were furnished by Borges and Laigneau

themselves. Laigneau's extensive collection of art and furniture, most of which consists of pieces of Scandinavian art nouveau and from the anthroposophical movement of Rudolf Steiner, is distributed throughout the hotel. "This kind of collection is usually found in museums," Laigneau says, "but we wanted to bring the pieces back to their original context: the home." Both hosts live the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement: Indeed, they see no difference between furniture and art, which is why the hotel does not feel like a museum or gallery, despite its wealth of artwork. Amidst 120 hectares of olive groves and cork oaks, Vitor Borges and Franck Laigneau now live their new life as hoteliers, making a stay at Dá Licença a feast for the senses. Lunch and dinner are always a surprise; the guests only need to tell their hosts what they do and do not like.









