



NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Chapel of *Nossa Senhora da Penha de França* was built at the end of the 17th century by order of the Bishop of Miranda D. Manuel de Moura Manuel, and is one of the major points of interest at the Quinta da Vista Alegre.

This is an imposing building with beautiful architecture that, on the main facade, presents a richly carved image in stone of the *Nossa Senhora da Penha de França*, Patroness of Vista Alegre. Standing out in the interior are the 17th century tiles of Gabriel del Barco and the gilded altarpieces with marble and the domes decorated with beautiful frescos. At the span of the Chancel is the impressive episcopal tomb of D. Manuel de Moura Manuel, a magnificent work in stone from Ançã, by the artist Claude Laprade, which is one of the most relevant elements of this chapel.

The Chapel of *Vista Alegre* was purchased on public auction on the 26th of October of 1816 by José Ferreira Pinto Basto, founder of the Fábrica da Vista Alegre, and it was classified as a National Monument in the year of 1910.

In 2015, the Chapel of *Nossa Senhora da Penha de França* was the object of a wide restoration project, coordinated by state agencies, which covered the entire historic and structural legacy of this construction from the 17th century, bringing back to the visitor's eye its exuberant beauty.

OPENING HOURS

CHAPEL

Monday to Sunday
May to September
10.45 am/ 11.45 am/ 12.30 am
2 pm/ 3 pm/ 4 pm/ 5 pm/ 6.30 pm
October to April
10.45 am/ 11.45 am/ 12.30 am
2 pm/ 3 pm/ 4 pm/ 5 pm/ 6 pm

MUSEUM

Monday to Sunday
May to September - 10 am to 7.30 pm
October to April - 10 am to 7 pm
Closed on:
1st January, Easter Sunday,
and 25th December

CONTACTS

MUSEUM AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - BOOK A VISIT

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CAPELA
VISTA ALEGRE



THE PAINTED TILES BY Gabriel del Barco

Dated from 1694 and signed by Gabriel del Barco (1648-?), the tiles of the *Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Penha de França* represent one of the most striking elements of this national monument. Integrated in the "Ciclo dos Mestres" ["Masters' Cycle"], characterised by the quality of painting and by the sophistication of the selected themes, which have a special meaning, because they represent the first figurative experiments of Portuguese tilework in blue and white. This style was introduced in our country by this Spanish painter, through a unique sense of scenography.



THE SCULPTED TOMB BY Claude Laprade

The episcopal tomb of D. Manuel de Moura Manuel (1632-1699) is a magnificently carved work in stone from Ançã, by Claude Laprade (c. 1675-1738). Dated from c. 1699, the tomb of the *Bishop of Miranda* is thought to be the first great work in Portugal of this sculptor from Provence. Its greatest uniqueness lies in the sculptural set, very distinct from the common practice of the tomb works of that period in Portugal. Object of several research works because of its exemplary character, the tomb has also been a national monument since 1910.



FRESCOS AND MURAL PAINTINGS

The intense set of frescos with iconography of the Virgin Mary appears as a further aspect of interesting uniqueness of this chapel. At the dome of the central nave we can admire the tree of Jesse, at the chancel the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, and in the sacristy and arch of the upper choir the murals in tempera with different religious and decorative themes. These paintings are ascribed to Gabriel del Barco (1648-?) as well, knowing that the Spanish artist arrived in Portugal as a ceilings painter, having received great recognition for the quality of his work.