

COME AND DISCOVER THE NEW MUSEUM SPACES

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A NEW MUSEUM WITH TWO CENTURIES OF HISTORY

To preserve and save the memory of Vista Alegre artistic porcelain production has been a tradition in the factory since the beginning, inherent to the prestige that the trademark achieved over the course of the 19th century.

The new museum aims to show the factory's history, the aesthetic evolution of porcelain production and its importance in Portuguese society of the 19th and 20th centuries, through one of the most complete museum holdings of the kind, totalling more than thirty thousand pieces.

OPENING HOURS

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

CHAPEL

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

CONTACTS

MUSEUM AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - BOOK A VISIT

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1

THE KILNS

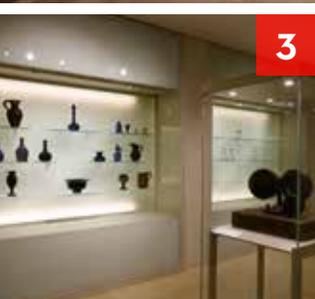
Two of the old coal and firewood kilns of Vista Alegre are now open to the public, in a unique first-hand experience of the industrial legacy. In the middle of the 20th century, Vista Alegre had ten such kilns operating simultaneously, where more than a hundred workers were needed to operate them.



2

THE FOUNDATION OF VA

José Ferreira Pinto Basto was a wealthy tradesman, owner of a fleet of ships and contract holder for tobacco and soaps. He was an entrepreneur by nature and the founder of the Fábrica da Vista Alegre.



3

THE GLASS

Before porcelain, Vista Alegre produced glass and crystal of the finest quality. The collection gathers pieces since 1826, as well as a glass catalogue from 1829, with the models sold throughout the whole country.



4

EARTHENWARE

The quest for the perfect porcelain was not easy for Vista Alegre in the beginning. Until the right formula was found, several experiments were made, which survived till the present day as testimonies of the history of Portuguese porcelain.



5

MODERNISMS

Raul Lino, Ruy Roque Gameiro and António Lima are some of the names of those who applied new artistic expressions to Vista Alegre's porcelain, such as Art Nouveau, Art Déco and Modernism, translating into countless pieces and designs.



6

FACTORY COMMUNITY

There are objects from the daily routine at work, which currently still reveal a bond between the workers and Vista Alegre that was built over generations as seen in the brushes, admission tokens and clogs, and one of the oldest fire engines in the country.



7

THE COMMEMORATION

Vista Alegre is present in many historic moments of the country as the nobility of its porcelain ensured orders for not only institutional and State celebrations, but also personal events.



8

THE FASCINATION WITH CHINA

The Portuguese were the first to associate the nobility of China porcelain with the symbols of family lineage. Emblazoned porcelain spread and remains, until this day, a personal trademark and synonymous with distinction.



9

LITHOPHANES

Introduced in Portugal by Vista Alegre, about 1860, the lithophane represented a novelty. A source of light directed to a 2mm thin porcelain plaque, enables one to see images of classical engravings through the porcelain's transparency, as clearly as in a photograph.



10

ANIMALIA

The representation of animals, with greater or less realism, reveals the virtuosity of the craftsmen, sculptors and painters of Vista Alegre, who gave form and colour to them. This perfection in sculpture technique allowed Vista Alegre to create unmatched beauty items collected in special series of limited edition.



11

SCULPTURE

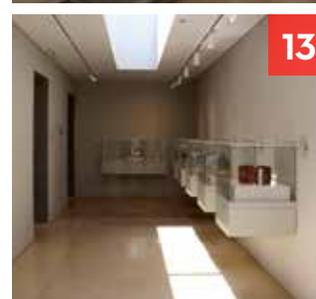
Another exponent of Vista Alegre's production was revealed early on with figurative sculptures, pieces of high technical and artistic complexity and greatly diversified styles.



12

PORCELAIN FOR CEREMONIAL OCASIONS

The multitude of forms and decorations in Vista Alegre's apparatus porcelain currently constitutes an important reference in several collections, both nationally and internationally.



13

CONTEMPORANEOUS

Portuguese and foreign artists find in Vista Alegre's production the continuity of aesthetic search and openness to the new languages of contemporaneity.



HP

HAND PAINTING WORKSHOP

The hand painting workshop is now integrated in the museum, allowing visitors to watch the fineness, quality and dedication of the work of Vista Alegre's painters.



VA

VISTA ALEGRE ROOM

Since 1851 the Fábrica da Vista Alegre has received prestigious international awards that distinguish the quality of its products. Nowadays, that quality is recognised through design and innovation, where Vista Alegre is still scoring highly.