



## Andy's Thoughts

*Hello... and welcome to my occasional thoughts. I am Andy, I live here at Monte Naturista O Barão with my wife Jill, my dog Sid, a cat named TomTom and my lovely goat Nellie. We first came here in our caravan in June 2007 to camp and look for our own place in the sun. We never left! Since then this little paradise has grown into what is in my opinion the best naturist site... in the world! In the coming months I'll keep in touch, through this page, with news, opinions and info.*

### **August**

**The smallest room in our bungalow has an oblong window of around 15x40cm. It is situated on the wall behind the w.c. exactly at the height of my head, affording a a spectacular view over the tranquil alentajen country side, bathed in sunshine and peace. I was standing there, half asleep and enjoying the view and indeed a piece, when our cat smashed its way onto the window ledge, appearing as if by magic, clinging on with fully extending claws and staring straight into my eyes. And that, Jill, is how the floor got wet. It weren't my fault.**

**Excuse me if you have made this trip but I would like to tell you of the short break we have just had to celebrate Jills birthday. We went to Porto by train from Ermidas. Return cost, 1st class was 105 euro which for a journey of that distance seems very good value. You have to change trains in Lisbon which only involves stepping from one and into another on the same platform. There in your allocated seat you are offered a newspaper, a tea/coffe/juice or water and earphones for the tv and radio. Wifi is free. Then if you want it, an excellent three course meal is available, served to your seat. Amazing service. In the hotel Jill was given a gift of a bottle of champagne and chocolates. She let me taste some. We visited the port wine caves, dockside and took a river tour. The city is clean and vibrant and getting about was easy, by taxi, bus or metro. My gift, because Jill loves to eat out, was to choose a restaurant. I researched in trip advisor and chose one that had rave reviews and a tv celeb chef. We arrived at 19h30 and were greeted by beautiful staff and treated royally. It was with some excitement that I opened the menu. There I found four main courses only ranging in price from 120 to 180 euro !!gulp!! Wines were from 31 to 1900 euro. We were able to choose a tasting menu of 10 courses of very intricate ingredients which told the story of cuisine from all of Portugal. To me it all tasted a little too salty but that may have been the tears falling freely from my eyes. It was an incredible experience but really I am not comfortable paying an amount that could have kept us in Mcdonalds for a month. I also had the best haircut ever, in a barbers that was also a bar. All in all Porto was brilliant and we will go there again, choosing less wallet crippling eateries.**

**After a quiet last week in July, the camping is busy again. I heard gales of laughter coming from the bar last night, which annoys me a bit as I was going to bed. If fun is being had I want to be there but the liver must be rested, the beauty sleep must be taken. Tomorrow is another day.**

**Enjoy the summer amigos.....andytravelexpertandrestaurantcritic**