



CASA *de*
VILA NOVA

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16  88 **Vila Nova**

The Same Family since the 12th Century



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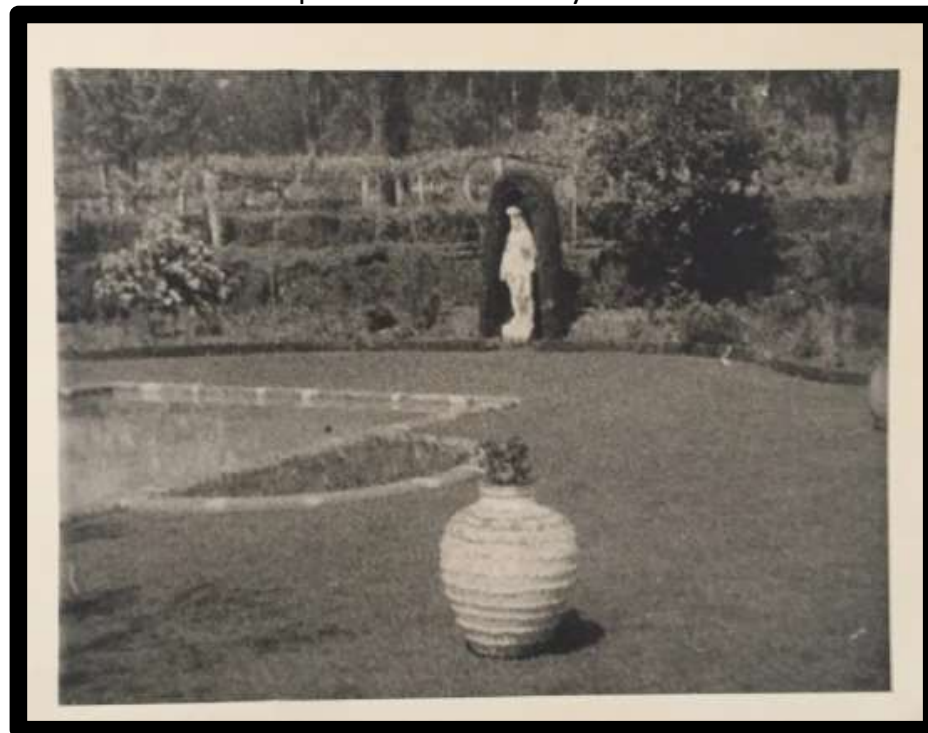


Vila Nova

The Lencastre family is of royal Portuguese lineage – descended from Antonio Pinot Garces Mandureira, who was named the First Barão da Varzea do Douro by Portugal's Queen Maria II on July 16, 1846.

The family's royal residence is Vila Nova, near the town of Penafiel, close to the eastern border in Portugal's Vinho Verde wine region -- about a 30 minute drive east from Oporto. The land has been in the family since the 12th Century, and the only remnant of that time is an ivy-covered stone tower, now totally surrounded by Vila Nova (new house), that was built in the 1700's.

In the late 1970s, the family planted grape vines over 29 acres; mostly the native Portuguese varietals that are most often used in Vinho Verde wines. In 2003, Bernardo Lencastre, who will be the Fifth Baron in the family, took over the property with his siblings, revitalized the vineyards and started making Vinho Verde. He also spearheaded efforts to make Vila Nova the showplace it is today.



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Vila Nova



Over the centuries, additions were made to the original Casa de Vila Nova and it is now a sprawling “Grand Home” filled with antique pieces like a covered red velvet “sedan” chair from the 1700’s that graces the front room that speaks to the family’s history and heritage down through the centuries. Like most of the Portuguese house’s of that time, it also claims a highly decorated family chapel where the Catholic Lencastre family has worshiped since it was added to the house in the early 1800s.



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Bernardo Lencastre, sister Luisa, father Luis Lencastre (Baron of Varzea do Douro), sister Sofia and brother Filipe

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Among the renovations, the tower was turned into the house’s kitchen, with modern appliances hidden away behind wooden cabinets that evoke what a Portuguese kitchen would have looked like in the late 1800s. Portuguese china, in a delicate blue floral pattern made especially for the family, fills the mid-19th Century china cabinet while silver serving platters, with the Lencastre family crest, are displayed on the mantle over the stone fireplace in the formal dining room. There is even an old-fashioned den, much as it was in the early 20th Century when the Third Baron, Bernardo’s grandfather, lived there. His vast collection of hunting rifles fill the room.



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