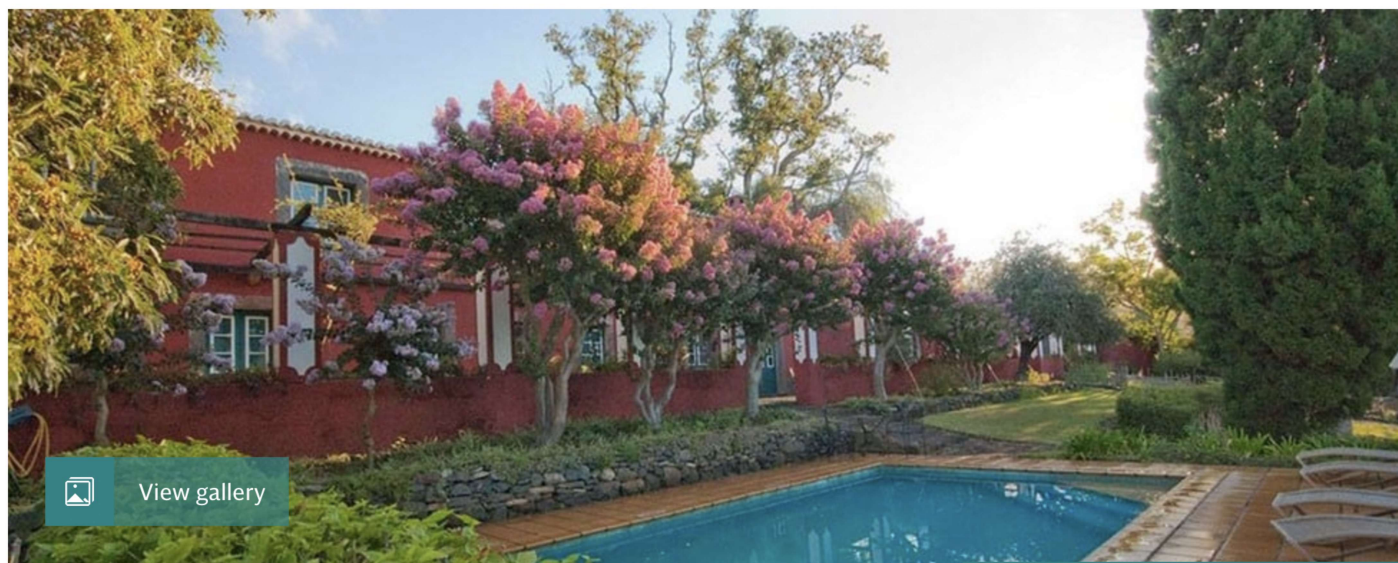


# The Telegraph



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## Quinta das Vinhas Calheta, Madeira, Portugal

[View on a map](#)



8/10

Telegraph expert  
rating

" Casting a contented eye over acres of vineyards to the jewel blues of the Atlantic at 17th-century Quinta das Vinhas will ease you back to a time of more gracious living. Attentively restored over the past 25 years by the descendants of the original family, it beguiles with its antiques, history and charm. "

# The Telegraph

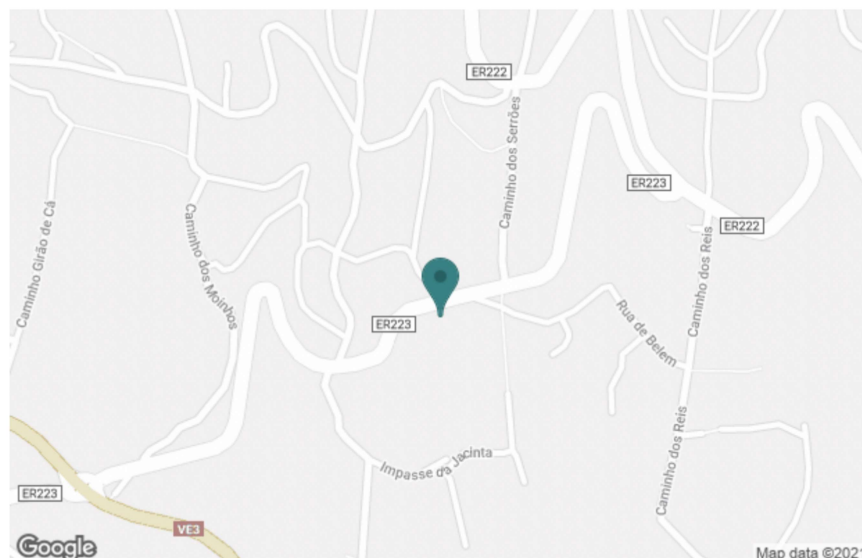
By **Xenia Taliotis**, TRAVEL WRITER

8/10

## Location

A 50-minute west-bound coastal drive from the airport will bring you to the quinta, from where it is just five minutes more to Calheta, one of the oldest parishes in Madeira. There you will find plenty to enjoy, including an artificial white-sand beach (one of only two on the island), which is known for sea sports, including canyoning, kayaking and searching for dolphins and wales; a notable 15th-century church; the Engenho da Calheta sugar cane mill and museum, which makes first class bolo de mel (honey cakes); the Museu de Art Contemporânea da Madeira and a performing arts centre.

Jardim do Mar – a traditional fishing village and surfing hot-spot – and the 25 Fontes waterfalls can be reached in 30 minutes by road.





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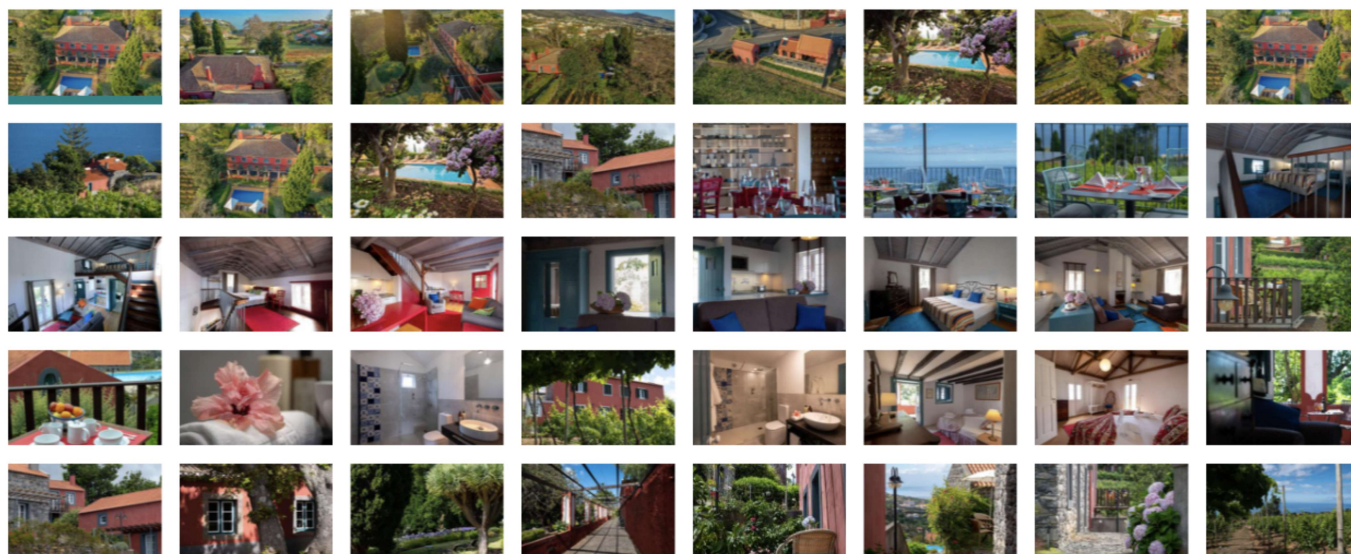
## Style and Character

You know how football is a game of two halves? Well Quinta das Vinhas is a hotel of two accommodations. The first half comprises rooms in the 17th-century farmhouse and is, as Gilbert & Sullivan might have sung, the “very model of a rustic vineyard residence”. It’s simple, authentic and utterly disarming, with Antiques Roadshow-worthy knick-knacks here and there.

The other half comprises 15 spacious cottages with kitchenettes and sink-into-me sofas and armchairs. Whichever accommodation you choose, you’ll find great use of colour – deep, brick reds set against bold aqua blues – azulejos tiles and old-style comfort, by which I mean no automated anything (thank goodness). The showers won’t transport you to the rainforests of Borneo, but their powerful jets will certainly bring you as close to godliness as possible and you won’t need assistance to turn them on.



# The Telegraph



See more images at [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com)

8/10

## Service and Facilities

Congenial staff who delight in their property show it off with pride. Highlights include the original bread oven and water filter, the old chapel – now the reading room – organic vineyards and luscious gardens filled with agapanthus, angel trumpets and tulip trees. There are two swimming pools – one by the farmhouse, the other by the cottages – and sun-trap terraces with views of the Atlantic, where you can watch the rising and setting sun in one continuous loop of coffee, aperitif, wine and digestif.

- ✓ Bar
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Wi-Fi

# The Telegraph

**8**<sub>/10</sub>

## Rooms

Elegant and tipico, with quirky antiques, colourful throws and wooden shutters. No fuss, no frills, just all you need for a terrific night's sleep, and a beautiful awakening to the best alarm clock there is – the dawn chorus. Top marks, too, for luxury toiletries in refillable containers. Choose your accommodation carefully: the 15 cottages are mainly located up and – more perilously – down steep paths. If you're given to wearing anything but trainers you might be better off taking one of the rooms in the farmhouse.

**8**<sub>/10</sub>

## Food and Drink

A buffet breakfast of charcuterie, cheeses, cereals, fruit and pastries is best enjoyed al fresco, and the same goes for your evening meal (€22 for three courses). House specials include roast aubergine salad, ossobuco with mash and passion fruit panna cotta.

Do book a wine tasting - it's a great opportunity to try some of the quinta's vintages.

**8**<sub>/10</sub>

## Value for Money

Rooms from €83 (£72), year-round. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

## Access for guests with disabilities?

No.

## Family-Friendly?

Children are welcome, but the steep paths to the cottages might prove problematic. Cots and extra beds are available for €25 per night. (Free up to age two.)

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[qdvmadeira.com](http://qdvmadeira.com)