



10 BEST Portuguese peaches

From the Algarve to Lisbon, **Alastair Sawday** chooses his favourite hideaways in Portugal

Quinta Bonita, Lagos, Algarve

Chantelle's well-travelled parents bought this villa in 1981 as a grand holiday home. Now, Chantelle and Fraser have turned it into an exceptional retreat.

Terrace breakfasts flaunt pastries, fruit fresh from their own orchards and a great view of the sea; delicious lunches are served (on request) and tea and cakes (complimentary) are delivered to the serene outdoor pool.

Bedrooms — the most peaceful at the back — are luxurious, with hugely comfortable beds and Sky TV; contemporary bathrooms sport organic oils and rainwater showers, and there's an indoor/outdoor sitting room on whose wicker sofas you may lounge all day.

If you're feeling energetic, there are bikes to borrow, or you can nip off to Lagos or discover the famous beaches before returning to this heart-warming place.

Details: Doubles from €95-€220. Tel: 00351 282 762 135; boutique hotelalgarve.com.



The River House, São Bartolomeu de Messines, Algarve

For urban escapees, the River House is a dream getaway. There are hills to climb, wide open skies, stars to take your breath away and the occasional otter in the river.

Trees border one side, the land

drops away on the other, and the meandering river that gives the house its name becomes a lake when the dam floods — and dwindles to a stream by the end of summer.

The lovely old terracotta-roofed house has undergone a no-expense-spared renovation. Warm sloping timbers blend with pale

walls and floors designed with sheer minimalist chic. Spin off on the bikes, go riding in the hills, stock up at the daily market in Messines then return to wicker loungers and a sweet child-friendly infinity splash pool.

Details: €1,000 per week. Tel: 0044 797 666 0526; great-locations.net.

Casa das Penhas Douradas, Manteigas, Beira

Snake 1,500m up a winding pass to the 'first mountain resort in Portugal'. The surrounding hamlet is 120 years old, but the hotel is new — all clean lines, blonde wood and touches of colour.

Vintage wooden skis hang beside funky 1950s-style lamps.

Chalet-style bedrooms, some with balconies, have stunning views of river valleys, plus spotless, state-of-the-art bathrooms. Dinner is a gourmet affair in the gleaming dining room.

Walk it off with a gentle stroll to a quartz outcrop. You're in the Serra da Estrela Natural Park and its wooded, boulder-strewn hills are never far away.

Return to a library stuffed with books and DVDs, a sitting room with a fireplace to curl up in front of, a delicious spa and a pool with floor-to-ceiling windows.

Details: Doubles from €90-€135. Tel: 00351 963 364 026; casadaspenhasdouradas.pt.