PRESS KIT · 2026

malas a montes

Independente e Genuína · Houses with soul, where time slows down



City · Laurentina, Alvalade, Lisbon



Beach · Pinha da Praia, Colares, Sintra



Countryside · Casa Lisboa, São Bartolomeu da Serra

Malas a Montes is an owner-run collection of nine independent holiday houses in Portugal, located in Lisbon, on the Sintra-Cascais coast and in São Bartolomeu da Serra in the Alentejo.

At a glance

Brand	Malas a Montes
Company	Moura Crespo Unipessoal LDA
Founder and host	Joana Crespo
Houses	9, in three collections: City, Beach, Countryside
Hosting since	2017; as Malas a Montes since 2019; Airbnb Superhost since 2019
Website	www.malasamontes.com
Instagram	@malasamontes

The founder

Joana Crespo is Portuguese and works in management and public health. She has lived in ten countries in her life: seven of them, on three continents, since she left Portugal in 2002, and in Denmark since 2016. She built Malas a Montes as the kind of place she wanted to arrive at herself: a house with character, run with care, where guests are free to arrive and explore on their own terms.

The name

Malas a montes means suitcases in piles: the pile of suitcases that gathers when family and friends come together. *Monte* is also the Alentejo farmhouse. The houses are places for exactly that: people getting together.

What we believe

1. **Soul over scale.** Every house has its own name, its own story and its own character.
2. **Independence, not absence.** Guests arrive on their own clock; someone is always taking care of everything.
3. **Honesty in every detail.** We say it before you book, not after you arrive.
4. **Rooted, not generic.** Local partners, real neighbourhoods, the Alentejo silence.
5. **Slow living, by design.** Calm rooms made for slowing down.

Story angles

1. **Independence, not absence** — how self check-in and remote hosting can feel more attentive than a hotel, not less.
2. **The Alentejo beyond the Algarve** — three cottages, one saltwater pool, no wifi, and the Costa Vicentina within an hour.
3. **Lisbon beyond the postcard** — living and working like a local in Belém, Alvalade and Saldanha.
4. **An owner-run brand from abroad** — a Portuguese founder in Denmark building nine houses with soul at home.



Mapa, Belém



Avenca da Praia, Parede



Casa Manila, Alentejo

Three collections, nine houses

Each house has its own name, seal colour and character. They are grouped into three collections, so guests choose the setting first and the house second.

City — Lisbon

Four houses inside Lisbon, in walkable neighbourhoods connected by metro, tram or train. For guests who want to explore the capital on foot, stay longer, or combine Lisbon with work.

- **Mapa — Belém.** A two-floor duplex apartment for up to 4 guests, close to the Jerónimos Monastery and the river. Its decorative theme is old and new maps of places the family lived in or visited. Our most-reviewed house. Interiors by Cláudia Conduto.
- **Laurentina — Alvalade.** A house for up to 6 guests in 3 bedrooms, with its own 3 × 3 m pool and private garden, rare in Lisbon. Desks in two bedrooms and the living room. Interiors by Cláudia Conduto.
- **Clementina — Alvalade.** Laurentina's twin, next door, for up to 6 guests, with its own pool, an enclosed pátio, a fireplace and a dedicated workstation in each of its three bedrooms. Featured on SIC's *Posso Entrar?*. Interiors by Cláudia Conduto. Book both together for groups of up to 12.
- **Jacaranda — Saldanha.** A first-floor apartment for up to 6 guests in 3 bedrooms, with a private deck over a green backyard and a strong set-up for working stays: two large side-by-side desks in a dedicated office area and a third workstation in bedroom 3. Three metro lines are within a 10-minute walk, alongside Saldanha's restaurants, shops and everyday services.

Beach — the Sintra-Cascais coast

Two houses on the Atlantic coast west of Lisbon, built around sea air, surf culture and an easy day trip into the city. At their best from March to October.

- **Pinha da Praia — Colares, Sintra.** 140 m² for up to 6 guests in 3 bedrooms, between the Sintra hills and the sea, with its own 8 × 4 m pool, a wood fireplace and Praia Grande nearby. Featured on *Posso Entrar?* (SIC). A car is recommended.
- **Avenca da Praia — Parede, Cascais.** A small 55 m² house for up to 5 guests, with a dedicated workspace, 450 m from the beach and a 5-minute walk from Parede station: central Lisbon in about 20 minutes by train, Cascais in about 10. No car needed.

Countryside — the Alentejo

Three cottages sharing one *monte* in São Bartolomeu da Serra (Santiago do Cacém): one garden, one 23 m saltwater lap pool, three separate front doors. No wifi, by choice. Up to 16 guests together.

- **Casa Lisboa** — the largest, for up to 8 guests, with two ensuite bedrooms, each with its own mezzanine, and the only barbecue.
- **Casa Manila** — a one-bedroom cottage with a mezzanine, for up to 4 guests.
- **Casa Maputo** — the middle cottage, one bedroom plus mezzanine, for up to 4 guests.

The Costa Vicentina is a short drive away: São Torpes and Sines in 25 minutes, the Fishermen's Trail at São Torpes in about 30, Porto Covo in 40, Comporta in 50. A car is recommended.

Images and logos

- **Logos:** the Malas a Montes seal and the nine house seals, on Wikimedia Commons under CC BY 4.0 (Category: Malas a Montes).
- **Photography:** José Mónica. Please credit "Photo: José Mónica / Malas a Montes".
- **Illustrations:** Benjamin Pessoa, for the three collections.
- **Press folder (high-resolution photos of all nine houses, logos):** drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TNJqzFZVxSUZvVAAyd4uCUcwskMpw9Hy

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