

## Caravela treat by the owner, Fernando Diniz

Information night Monday Feb. 20, 2023

Meet Fernando at his native island of Terceira this summer and enjoy a marvelous time at his house.

To learn more about Terceira and the Azores, join Fernando on Monday Feb. 20 at 6 p.m for a slide show and a question and answer session.

## Caravela owner organizing trips to his native island of Teceira

By Fred Sherwin The Orléans Star

Fernando Diniz is the owner of Caravela Restaurante on Innes Road. The Portuguese eatery is one of the most popular dining establishments in Orléans.

A native of Teceira in the Azores, a group of Portuguese islands in the middle of the Atlantic, Diniz immigrated to Canada in 1985. After running a successful construction company for more than 30 years, he opened Caravela in 2016 and has never looked back.

After immigrating to Canada, Diniz would often go back to his native Teceira to visit his parents and siblings. The COVID pandemic, however, put an end to his visits along with most other international travel. During that time, Fernando dreamed of turning his child-hood home into a bed and breakfast for his friends and customers. The unfortunate passing of his mother earlier this year left the home empty (his father passed away in 2015).

While he was visiting the island last spring to take care of his mother's affairs, he began renovating the four-bedroom house. He returned again in August for another six-week stretch to finish the work, which included adding an additional bathroom, a

covered deck in the back, a private secondfloor terrace and a gazebo in the backyard. All of which to say, the house is now ready for visitors.

Diniz is opening up his childhood home to friends and customers who want to visit Teceira for a week or two next summer with he himself acting as host.

Direct flights are available to the island from either Montreal (5 hours) or Toronto (5 hours, 45 minutes). Both flights are overnight and arrive early the next morning. The Azores are four hours ahead of Ottawa.

Diniz will pick his guests up at the airport and drive them to the house where they can freshen up before going to the grocery store to buy whatever sundry items they need (the porch is equipped with a gas BBQ). Guests can also purchase a phone card which will give them a local number to access the Internet and download emails.

The house is equipped with free Wifi and cable to access Canadian and U.S. television stations

With Diniz acting as tour guide, the guests will visit Praia Da Vitoria City during their first full day on the island, where they can go swimming on the public beach and enjoy



The bathing area of Biscoitos consists of natural pools situated among the black rocks on the north coast of Terceira. FACEBOOK PHOTO



Visitors to Teceira can enjoy magnificent views of the central plateau from the Serra do Cume observation deck. FACEBOOK PHOTO

lunch at a local restaurant.

After returning to the house, they will be able to enjoy a 2.5-hour siesta before preparing to go out for dinner at another local restaurant chosen by Diniz.

On Day 2 of their visit, Diniz will drive the guests to Angra do Heroismo City where they will tour the local gardens, have lunch, visit Patio da Alfandega and Monte Brasil, drop by the Angra Marina Hotel to enjoy a drink while enjoying the amazing view, and finally visit Quinta dos Açores for an ice cream before returning home. And that's just the first two days.

On Day 3, the guests will visit Quartro Ribeiras, where there are natural ocean pools for swimming, and the wine museum is in nearby Biscoitos. After lunch, the party will visit the Algar do Carvão, an ancient lava tube located in the central part of the island. Once everyone has had a chance to explore the caves, the party will return to the house to relax before heading out to dinner.

On Day 4, the guests will visit the Serra du Cume which has platforms offering a breathtaking view of the island's interior. The Serra du Cume plateau is actually a volcanic caldera. After enjoying the view, the party will pick up some food at a local restaurant and enjoy a picnic in the mountains at Lagoa do Falcão before returning back to the house for dinner.

On Day 5, the guests will tour the southern part of the island with stops at the seaside village of Praia de Riviera, the natural ocean pools at Porto Martins; then the Baia de Salsa and finally, the Gruta das Agulhas in Puerto Judeo which is only accessible at low tide.

On Day 6, the guests will enjoy a relaxing day at the house capped by a BBQ dinner prepared by Diniz and served with a bottle of Portuguese wine from his personal collection.

On the seventh and final day, the group will enjoy breakfast together and relax until lunch time when Diniz will take those who wish to go on a tour of several "secret" bars in town before returning home to pack for the flight home, or a connecting flight to mainland Portugal if they plan to extend their vacation.

Diniz is already taking reservations for next summer. Anyone interested in visiting Teceira can either drop by Caravela, email him at fernando@accuratepoint.ca or call 613-868-1237.





Join Caravela restaurant owner Fernando Diniz for a week on his beautiful native island of Teceira. Stay in his family home and enjoy everything this Portuguese island has to offer.

Teceira - also known as the Lilac Island - is a World Heritage Site in the Azores archipelago. With sandy beaches, stunning views and a burgeoning wine industry, you won't want to miss a thing!

Please contact Fernando at fernando@accuratepoint.ca for more details.