



Best Of

FROM AN ABANDONED FARMHOUSE IN THE HEART OF PORTUGAL TO A LEADING WINE RESORT

Once a winery, "Cas' Amaro" is a renovation project that makes tradition the starting point for luxury wine tourism

By STEFANO ANNOVAZZI LODI 16/09/2022



Fernando Guerra | FG+SG

We've all come across an old **abandoned property** with its roof caved in or its walls cloaked in ivy. When it happens, we often find ourselves asking who used to live there. To respond to this burning question in **Aldeia Galega da Merceana**, a rural area of Western Portugal, **Atelier Central Arquitectos** decided to recover an old winery that had been left in ruins for years, turning it into an outstanding destination for the growing **wine tourism**.

Raccomandato da Outbrain



Fernando Guerra | FG+SG



Fernando Guerra | FG+SG

Cas' Amaro is a redevelopment project that bets on both the future and the past, winking at traditional means of production for a local delicacy. Using most of the original structures and several pieces of furniture, the creatives enhanced the building in order to meet the highest modern standards. The combination works seamlessly thanks to the humble materials sourced from the surrounding area: black cork agglomerate as thermal insulation, white lime mortar and recycled roof tiles. It's a great hybrid, then, grafted away off the beaten path to attract a niche clientele — perfect for the low-cost revival of a heritage that would have otherwise been lost forever.

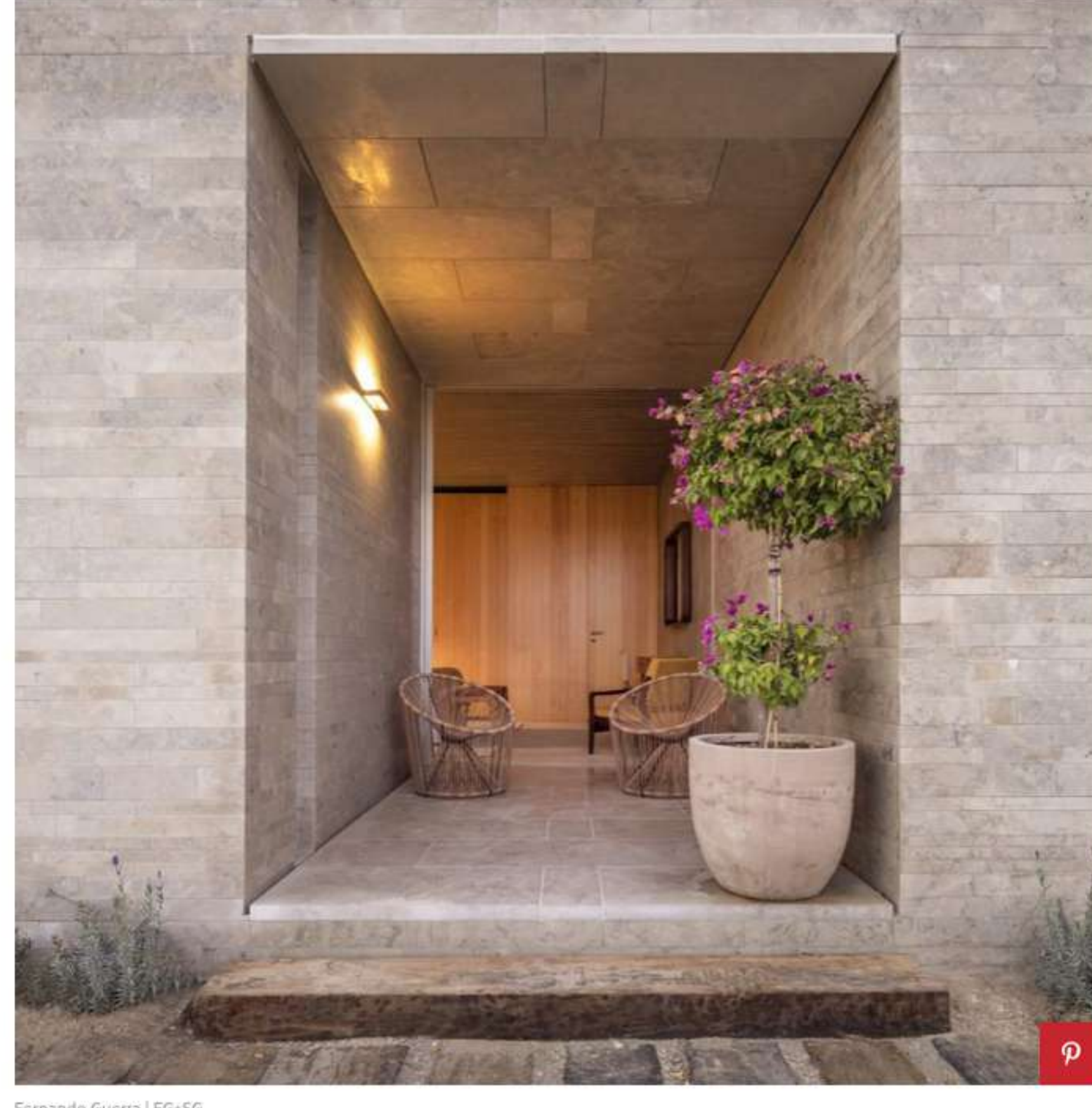


Fernando Guerra | FG+SG



Fernando Guerra | FG+SG

The complex is divided into two main bodies, with the original volume containing all the shared areas including a living room, dining room and kitchen and reception. What stands out here is the height of the walls, holding up a large ceiling with exposed wooden beams. The concrete floor is also original, along with the large wine press. What's new, however, are the more abundant openings to the east and west, toward the vineyard, and the pine screens treated with natural oil to shelter from the beating sun. Meanwhile, the hood and fireplace have been replaced to build the true heart of interiors, around which guests are invited to gather.



Fernando Guerra | FG+SG



Fernando Guerra | FG+SG

Apartments were constructed within a **new, partly underground building** that emerges from the ground like a large boulder. The mass of the structure, which rises from the slope of the land, allows for views over the vineyards, even from south-facing balconies, and hides service spaces like parking, which is completely invisible at a first glance. On the roof, the architects placed an infinity pool, which can be reached via an internal staircase. The two buildings communicate through an underground concrete tunnel, equipped with a circular skylight that lets in the natural light. Contact with the surrounding environment is ensured by maintaining the same partition of the farmhouse, crossed by a gravel path that winds among trees and aromatic plants. Here, guests have access to a barbecue and wine tasting area, shaded by a small pergola with a trellis that allows the vines to climb and grow.

