



MOVE OVER FOOTBALL FANS... LISBON PREPARES TO PARTY IN JUNE WITH 'FESTAS DE LISBOA'

30 May 2014 – As football fever subsides and the summer nights draw out, Lisbon prepares to party with a line up of not-to-be-missed cultural events in June that will attract thousands of visitors and locals to the historic quarters of the city.

The **Festas de Lisboa** (Festivals of Lisbon) are a series of events which aim to preserve the traditions of the city and include street art and entertainment, musical and theatrical performances and folk parades, taking place both day and night within the city's oldest neighbourhoods. Visitors are encouraged to head to the characterful backstreets of Alfama, Bica, Castelo and Graça, and the fashionable neighbourhood of Bairro Alto to witness the spirited street dancing, singing, haunting guitar sounds of Fado and taste the freshly grilled sardines.

One of the biggest and major highlights in the calendar is the **Santo Antonio Festival** which takes place every year on the evening of 12th June, with folklore groups competing against their neighbouring districts in a highly colourful parade along the cosmopolitan *Avenida de Liberdade* in central Lisbon.

It is a lively celebration of Portugal's patron saint, Saint Antonio, who is the saint of lost things and to whom many miracles have been attributed. In Portugal he is known as the guardian of good marriages, and as such it is tradition on the 13th June for local couples to hold collective wedding ceremonies, where the brides are known as the "**Brides of Santo António**" and join a procession through the winding streets around Sé Cathedral.

For those who wish to find out more about Saint Antonio, the exhibition **Saint Anthony Arm in Arm... with Art** is a showcase of nearly one thousand works from artists, sculptors and designers which can be enjoyed for free at Espaço Arte na Terra.

Throughout the month of June, **Folk festivals** and music can be appreciated for free across the city in various venues and neighbourhoods; travellers need only follow the distinctive sound of Fado and smell of roasted Chorizo.

The **Faz Musica Lisboa** is also a free line-up of concerts celebrating different music styles, including Brazilian, jazz, world music and rock, bringing together over 50 groups who perform in the city's most charming venues. Weekend visitors also have the chance to catch a jazz performance in one of the city's public spaces or gardens as a part of the **Meo Out Jazz** festival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings until September.

Visitors to the city may be asked for quiet during the first week of June as Lisbon's most popular singers take to the major **Tram routes 28E and 12E** to perform Fado to passengers as they navigate the city's hills and climbs.



At the end of the month, attention turns to **PORTUGALSLAM!** an event which recognises Portuguese acting talent with a host of workshops, talks and performances in the city. The event culminates with theatre groups fighting it out at LX Factory to win the Portugal Poetry SLAM.

Families are not forgotten with two unforgettable experiences geared up for children. The **Ludopolis 2014** from 6th – 10th June costs just 4 Euros per child and gives them access to around 1,000 games and amusements spread across six venues or “play villages” in the city. From sports games to folk games the aim is to bring people together through play.

Throughout June, streets across the city are decorated with coloured lights, paper chains and lavish garlands and the air is rich with the smell of grilled sardines being sold in restaurants and outside houses. The eating of Sardines is attributed to an extraordinary event that occurred in the 13th Century when Saint Antonia was preaching in Rimini, Italy. Depressed that the locals would not listen to his sermons he wandered to the shore to confide in and talk to the fish. The fish miraculously flocked to the shores and the townsfolk open-mouthed rushed to witness the arrival of the fish. It was not long before they listened and showed their respect to the travelling missionary.

For more information and details on Festas de Lisboa visit www.visitlisboa.com

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About Lisbon

Portugal’s national capital, Lisbon, boasts one of the longest histories, warmest climates and bustling nightlife of any major European city alongside its dramatic location sprawled along seven hills overlooking the river Tagus and Portugal’s west coast. Famed for its year-round sunshine and beauty, Lisbon’s grand architecture dazzles and its old-world charm mingles with chic streets, galleries, lively nightlife and a centre which gives way to sandy beaches just minutes away. It also one of the most affordable capitals in Europe, perfect for a captivating city break or short haul escape.

www.visitlisboa.com

About Turismo de Lisboa

Turismo de Lisboa is a non-profit organization established through an alliance of public and private bodies operating in the tourist sector. It now has around 680 associated members. Since its inception in 1998, the main objective of this association is to improve and increase the promotion of Lisbon as a tourist destination and therefore enhance the quality and competitiveness of the city.