

1364-2014

CASCAIS

TERRITORY • HISTORY • MEMORY

650 ANOS

CASCAIS

Tudo começa nas pessoas

Conception

Cascais Municipal Council - Department of Innovation and Communication
Municipal Archives Division
Branding and Communication Division

Co-ordination

João Miguel Henriques

Research, text and image selection

João Miguel Henriques
Margarida Sequeira
Helena Gonçalves Pinto
Jorge Mangorrinha
Irene Pimentel
Helena Matos

Collaboration

Mafalda Martinho
Cristina Neves
Maria Conceição Santos
Edite Sota
Rui Teixeira

Images

Arquivo da Casa de Alba (ACA)
Arquivo Histórico Municipal de Cascais (AHMCSC)
Arquivo Nacional - Torre do Tombo (AN-TT)
Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal (BNP)
British Library (BL)
Cascais Dinâmica - Gestão do Economia, Comércio e Empreendedorismo, E.M., S.A.
Direção-Geral de Energia e Geologia (DGEG)
Direção-Geral do Território (DGT)
Fundação Biblioteca Nacional do Brasil (FBNE)
Gabinete de Estudos Arqueológicos da Engenharia Militar (GEAEM)
Guilherme Cardoso
José Luís Tomé Sabido
José Santos Fernandes (AHMCSC/AESP/CSJF)
Maria José Lacerda e Mello
Palacio del Viso del Marqués (PVM)

Photography

Diana Laires

Graphic Design

David Pinto

Printing

Editora Cercica – Cercica, C.R.L.

Print-run

1,000 copies (2nd edition)

ISBN

Legal deposit

CASCAIS
TERRITORY • HISTORY • MEMORY

It's a great honour for me to oversee the fortunes of our council precisely at the time we're celebrating one of the most important dates of our collective existence: the 650th anniversary of Cascais officially becoming a town which, by historical coincidence, goes hand in hand with the 500th anniversary of its charter and 645 years since the council's boundaries were first established. It was on the 7th of June 1364, by the hand of King Pedro I, that the noblemen of Cascais fulfilled a dream. And what was that dream? It was the dream of being their own sovereigns and not being answerable to Sintra. It was the dream of living free in their own homes. It was the dream of passing on to their children and to their children's children a piece of land on which they'd be able to build their future happiness.

650 years later, history shows that those pioneers, those noblemen of Cascais, were absolutely right because today, more than six and a half centuries later, Cascais is much more than anything a person could have imagined.

It's a land without any barriers between men or boundaries separating the different cultures.

It's a place of prosperity, tolerance and solidarity.

It is a window on the world, for the world.

Our role at this time and place is to honour its legacy, both materially and immaterially, by striving on a daily basis to ensure that Cascais will always be a destination and an aspiration.

We have a huge responsibility on our shoulders because, just like 50 years ago, this is a moment that will go down as one of the golden periods of our municipality and the history of our people.

Cascais: Territory | History | Memory, the book you're holding in your hands, commemorates 650 years of Cascais' status as a town, being just one of the hundreds of initiatives we've organised for the people of Cascais up until the 6th of June 2015. Packed with all sorts of useful information for anyone wanting to know from whence we came and to where we're heading, complete with accounts written by the best historians and academics connected to this area, it's an indispensable book for any library and one that, quite unreservedly, provides a service for the public on each and every one of its pages. It's a book that reflects on the past and looks forward to the future with good memories and fine prospects. It has, above all, the ability to show us that there's an ongoing dialogue between yesterday's

people of Cascais and those of today. It's almost as if generations and generations of local cascalenses were bonded by an unwritten contract. And what are the terms of that contract? To be proud of our identity, remain open to the world and be protective of our heritage and humanity to defend the solidarity of all cascalenses, whoever they might be.

From that perspective, it's a book that reveals many of our characteristics and in doing so strengthens our identity. It's my belief that, globally speaking, Cascais is becoming more and more competitive with so many differentiating factors adding to its potential. Territory, history and memory are precisely the three most fundamental aspects required for adopting a more holistic approach to promoting our identity.

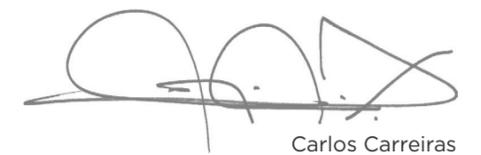
Cascais: Territory | History | Memory is a valuable tool in promoting a specific idea at this very special time. The idea is that celebrations can unite a place's identity, culture, solidarity and people. That's the challenge we're setting you in the pages of this book: that each and every one of us puts aside our differences and appreciates the things that unite us because, at the end of the day, Cascais is all that really matters.

The readers and I are just temporary visitors to the place we're privileged to call 'home'. But Cascais will always be here. Our obligation is to make sure it's even better once we've departed from this extraordinary place. That's the duty we have to all future cascalenses, that they find a better place than the one we inherited. In times as demanding as these, the 650th-anniversary celebrations provide us with a unique opportunity to be atypically uncommon. It's a chance to start a positive movement to be of service to Cascais as it embarks on a new era of progress. This is only something that can be done by the people, for the people, and through the people.

For 650 years, Cascais has fulfilled the vision of its founding fathers and become a land that rises to the needs of its people.

Our aim and desire was to begin the celebrations, in the best way possible I believe, with the release of this book at the height of our history and existence, which are a fundamental part of each and every cascalense. Let these celebrations take place in schools, businesses, museums and streets of every one of our parishes.

Like every man and women depicted in this book, the people of Cascais will be remembered for their contributions to a history that one day will include all of us.



Carlos Carreiras
Mayor of Cascais



Marina and town of Cascais
Cascais Dinâmica. Photograph by Rui Cunha

From the birth of the town to the creation of the council

«The remarkable town of Cascais, [that] being the last in the western world, in which it seems to want to gather together the very best of nature, that from the Orient to this same town, gives the purest and most temperate airs.»¹

The origin of the name Cascais is lost in time, although in the opinion of the etymologist José Leite de Vasconcelos it probably derives from the word *cascal*, which refers to the large numbers of shells and calcareous crustaceans found around the small fishermen's village that later lent its name to the municipality.

Nestled between Sintra, Oeiras and the Atlantic Ocean, Cascais is spread out over low-lying hills and shallow valleys stretching from the mountain slopes to a coast characterised by beaches and cliffs between Carcavelos and Cascais, after which lies an eroded and rock-strewn area of elevated coast from the town to Guincho with large areas of sands and dunes further on.²

In his book, *Livro das Grandezas de Lisboa* (Book of Lisbon's Grandeurs) published in 1620, Frei Nicolau d'Oliveira referred to the 'remarkable town of Cascais' being blessed by nature and with the 'purest and most temperate airs'. In praising the region's climate, he notes that 'there's no summer so warm in that one feels a great calm, with the closeness of the sea [...] that almost surrounds you and the cool of the Serra de Sintra with its freshness and mild winds, inviting you to become a part of the land, so refreshing is the air, warmed up by the rays of the sun'. Equally, 'there's no winter so bracing that one feels a great chill with reverence for the winds, from the south and the north-west, which at that time of the year are normally as mild as those from the north and north-east in summer. And therefore it's the healthiest place known in Portugal and one in which a man can live a longer and healthier life»³...

Covering approximately 97.4 square-kilometres, the municipality of Cascais comprises the parishes of Alcabideche and S. Domingos de Rana and the combined parishes of Carcavelos/Parede and Cascais/Estoril. As you will see, this arrangement has evolved over a long period of time.

Man's presence in the area that now constitutes the municipality of Cascais appears to go back to Paleolithic times, of which some important archaeological vestiges still remain. The same applies to the Romans whose villas made a vital contribution to settlements across the region.⁴ Nevertheless, it was over nearly four and a half centuries of Muslim rule that saw the creation of a group of small villages which still form today an essential part of the municipality's matrix identity, as demonstrated by the abundance of Arab toponyms and the existence of the region's first important settlement, Alcabideche, whose windmills were celebrated by the poet Ibn Mucana.⁵

1. OLIVEIRA, Nicolau, Frei - *Livro das grandezas de Lisboa*. Lisboa: [s. n.], 1620. P. 78-78 v.
2. Cf. SEQUEIRA, Eugénio Menezes de; RAMALHO, Miguel Magalhães - *Roteiros do Património de Cascais: Património Natural e Geológico*. Vol. 1. Cascais: Câmara Municipal, 2010.
3. OLIVEIRA, Nicolau, Frei - *Op. cit.* p. 78 v.
4. Cf. CARDOSO, Guilherme Cardoso; ENCARNACÃO, José d' - *Roteiros do Património de Cascais: Património Arqueológico*. Vol. 2. Cascais: Câmara Municipal, 2010, a book that also includes an extensive bibliography on the same theme.
5. Cf. ANDRADE, Ferreira de - *Cascais Vila da Corte: Oito Séculos de História*. Reprinted in facsimile. Cascais: Câmara Municipal, 1990. p. 34-35.



Cascais e Seus Lugares: Boletim da Junta de Turismo de Cascais, September 1957

In 1147, the Christian conquest of Sintra and Lisbon pushed Portugal's boundary further south, thus ensuring the safety of the people living in this part of the country in a period marked by the founding of many coastal settlements that, in turn, guaranteed the protection of the coast and all the prerequisites for commercial development. Cascais also benefited from being a port particularly well positioned for the distribution of agricultural products cultivated in Sintra, to which the town belonged. By this time the region was also famous for the breeding of game birds, an activity that appears to lend its name to the town of Estoril, which derives from the low-Latin word Asturil

(meaning goshawk) that had already been mentioned in 1256.⁶ The oldest document referring to the future town of Cascais, where the Romans had built a fish-processing centre and probably a defensive tower, appeared by the same time more specifically on the 11th of May 1282 when King Dinis informed the municipality of Tavira about the standards of conduct used by the commander of a fortress on the Lisbon coast, referring to Cascais.⁷ The granting of town status in 1364 was almost certainly due to its economic development, as stated in the following paragraph;

6. Ainda em meados do século XIII se escrevia o topónimo com u, ou seja, «Sturil». Aí existia uma vasta herdade doada pelo Rei D. Afonso III ao seu valido, o chanceler Estêvão Eanes. Cf. AN-TT, Chancelaria de D. Afonso III, Lv. 1, fl. 19 v. (Carta régia, Guarda, 13 de julho de 1256).

7. Cf. MARQUES, João Martins da Silva - *Descobrimientos Portugueses: Documentos para a sua História*. Vol. I. Lisboa: Instituto de Alta Cultura, 1944, p. 17.



King Pedro I, to whom Cascais owed its autonomy in 1364
AHMCS/AESP/CNM/020

«Dom Pedro, by the grace of God, King of Portugal and the Algarve, with this charter declares that, at the request of the noblemen of Cascais, it is now decided that they are exempt from the subjection of Sintra, to which the village belonged, and it is bestowed upon them that Cascais becomes itself a town and therefore gains self-jurisdiction and judges to administer law and justice and other law-abiding officers for the good governance of this place, and they will pay me an extra 200 pounds each year besides what I am already rightfully entitled to receive.»