



Monserrate

Park and Palace of

Palace of Monserrate

PORTUGAL
TURISMO DE

Parks of Sintra



Palace of Monserrate

In 1856 the Palace of Monserrate was fully rehabilitated, under the supervision of English architect James T. Knowles, into the summer residence of the Cook family. Taking the ruins of Gerald de Visme's Neo-Gothic mansion as its starting point, the building is a unique example of the eclectic spirit of the nineteenth century

EMIGUS

Music Room
A room with excellent acoustics, which exclusively occupied the building's northern tower. Dome in decorative plasterwork with gilded floral motives. Decorative frieze with the representations of the Muses and the Graces



Main Hall
Octagonal atrium with a Carrara marble fountain at its centre

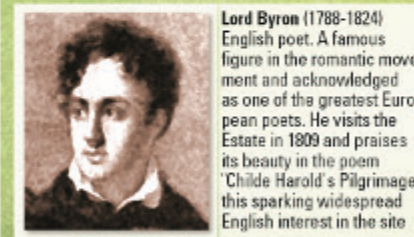
Stairwell
Marble structure decorated with an ivy-leaved pattern



Opening times

High season:	Last ticket
Park 9h30 to 20h00	19h00
Palace 9h30 to 19h00	18h15
Low season:	
Park 10h00 to 18h00	17h00
Palace 10h00 to 17h00	16h30

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Lord Byron (1788-1824)
English poet. A famous figure in the romantic movement and acknowledged as one of the greatest European poets. He visits the Estate in 1809 and praises its beauty in the poem "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage", this sparking widespread English interest in the site

The builders of Monserrate



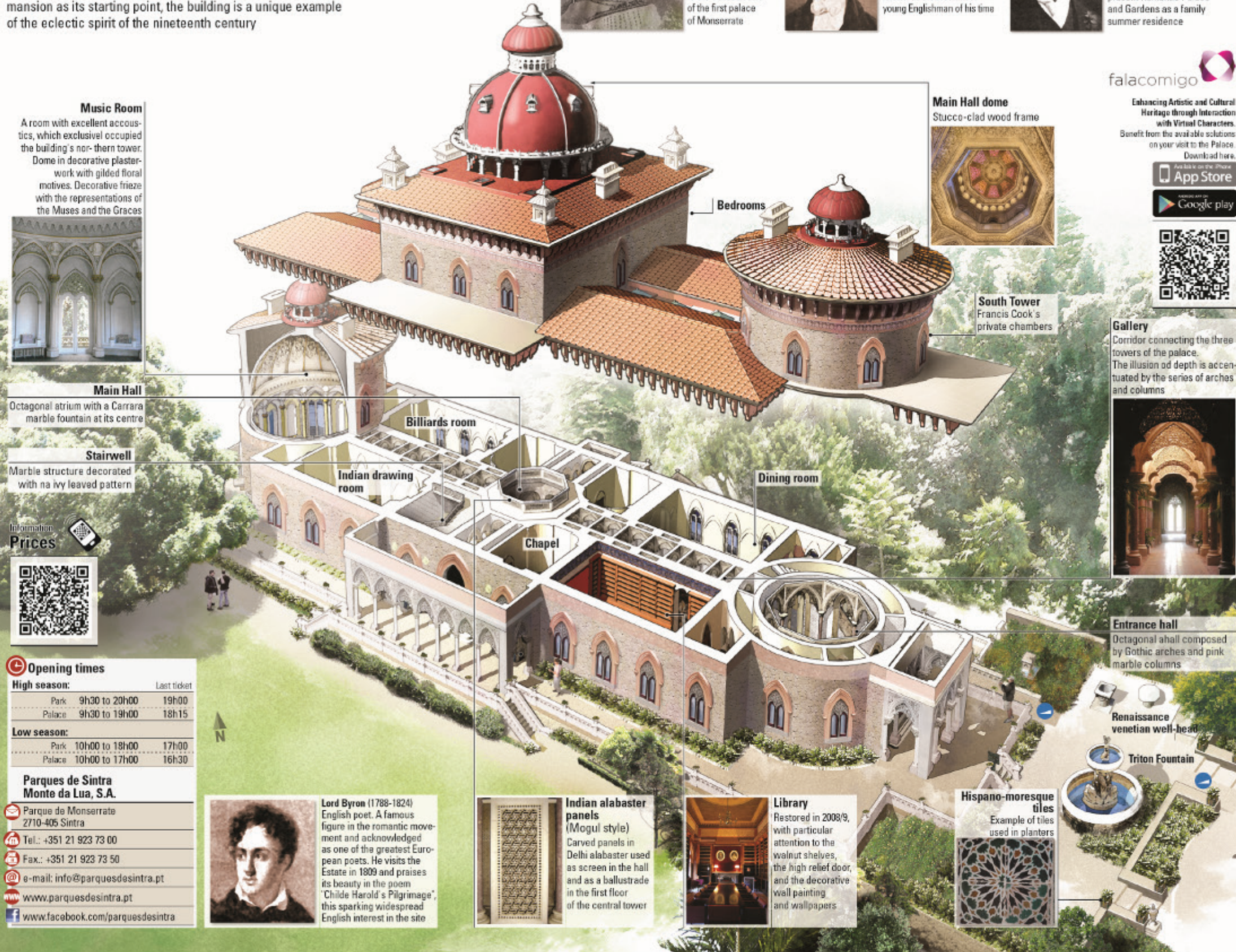
Gerard de Visme
English merchant holding the concession to import Brazilian teak. He was responsible for the construction of the first palace of Monserrate



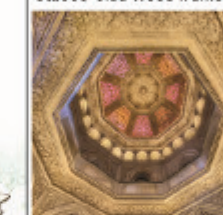
William Beckford (1760-1844)
Writer, novelist, art critic and eccentric builder (Fonthill Abbey in Wiltshire, England, is an example of his controversial approach to construction), known as the wealthiest young Englishman of his time



Francis Cook (1817-1901)
English textile millionaire, 1st Viscount of Monserrate and owner of one of the greatest private art collections in Britain. He conceived the present Romantic Palace and Gardens as a family summer residence



Main Hall dome
Stucco-clad wood frame



South Tower
Francis Cook's private chambers

Gallery
Corridor connecting the three towers of the palace. The illusion of depth is accentuated by the series of arches and columns



Entrance hall
Octagonal hall composed by Gothic arches and pink marble columns

Renaissance venetian well-head

Triton Fountain

Hispano-moresque tiles
Example of tiles used in planters



Indian alabaster panels (Mogul style)
Carved panels in Delhi alabaster used as screen in the hall and as a balustrade in the first floor of the central tower



Library
Restored in 2008/9, with particular attention to the walnut shelves, the high relief door, and the decorative wall painting and wallpapers



1540 Construction of a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Monserrate on the hill where the Palace now stands. The property belonged to the All Saints Hospital of Lisbon	1601 The property was leased to the Mello e Castro family	1718 Purchase of the Quinta by Caetano de Mello e Castro, "Comendador de Cristo" and Viceroy of India	1755 The Lisbon earthquake rendered the houses on the Quinta uninhabitable	1790 Gerard de Visme rented the property and built the first neo-gothic palace on the ruins of the old chapel	1793 William Beckford rented the property, carried out building works on the palace and began to lay out a landscape garden	1856 Sir Francis Cook buys the Quinta and initiates the restoration of the palace and the construction of the gardens	1949 The Portuguese State acquires the Estate and its Hunting Grounds, a total of 143 hectares	1995 UNESCO lists the Sintra Hills where Monserrate is located, as Cultural Landscape, World Heritage.	2010 Reopening of the restored areas of the Palace of Monserrate
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Park of Monserrate

One of the finest landscape gardens of the romantic era, created by Sir Francis Cook. This ancient country estate with an area of 33 hectares contains a remarkable botanical collection of species from all over the world, successfully acclimatized and offering contrasting environments along winding paths, among ruins, secluded crannies, lakes and waterfalls.

Parques de Sintra Acolhem Melhor
Com o apoio do Turismo de Portugal

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Swamp Cypress
(Southeastern USA and the Mississippi Valley)
Their roots are pneumatophores, meaning that they emerge from the ground saturated with water to obtain oxygen

Rose Garden 4

Pohutukawa (New Zealand)
Covered with red flowers in early summer, known as the New Zealand Christmas Tree

Mourning Cypress
(China)

Chilean Wine Palms

Bunya Pine
(Australia)

Mexican Garden 5

Giant Strelitzia
(South Africa)

Montesuma Cypress

Ornamental Lakes 6

Atlas cedar
(Atlas Mountains)

Japanese Garden
Collection of Asian plants, notably bamboos and camellias

1 Chapel

Chapel
False ruin based, by Francis Cook, on a chapel built on this location by Gerard de Visme and which replaced the Chapel of Our Lady of Monserrate

Beckford's Waterfall
Artificial waterfall

Australian Banyan

Norfolk Island Pine
(Norfolk Island, Pacific Ocean)
The biggest tree in the park, at over 50 metres high

The Lawn
The first lawn planted in Portugal, notable for its size and unusual cambered surface which required an imaginative irrigation system

Palace of Monserrate

Scented path
Bordered by pergolas with wisteria and jasmine which release a strong scent in spring

Scaly Zamia
(Australia)

Chinese Persimmon
(China)

Queensland Kauri
(Australia)

Ginkgo
(Southeast Asia)

Figueira-das-Ilhas-Fidji

Camellia
(Southeast Asia)

Yew
(Europe, North East Africa, South East Asia)

Fern Valley
A remarkable collection of Tree-ferns in a valley with an unusual microclimate

Hippocrene
Lake named after a legendary fountain in Ancient Greece

Bussaco Cedars
(Mexico and Guatemala)

Umbrella Pine
(Mediterranean Europe)

Vathek's Arch
This stone arch is named after the main character in William Beckford's most famous novel, Vathek

Guard's lodge

Chimera
Mythological creature that provides an introduction to the fantastic beyond the gates

Roman Arch

Strawberry tree
(Western Mediterranean and Western Europe)

Plane trees

2 Indian Arch

Cinnamon tree
(South of India and Sri Lanka)

Palm collection

3 Boulder House

California Redwood
(North America)

Chromlech
False cromlech attributed to William Beckford

Greenhouse and seed and propagation beds

Cork Oak
(South of Europe and North of Africa)
Widely grown in Portugal for cork production. Monserrate cork oaks have never been stripped and their bark is thick and wrinkled

Studio
Painting studio of Sir Francis Cook (1907-1978), great-grandson of the 1st Viscount of Monserrate

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1 Sarcophagus

The niche in the chapel housed one of three Etruscan sarcophagi which served as garden ornaments. They are now deposited in the Archaeological Museum of São Miguel de Odrinhas, in Sintra



2 Indian Arch

Ornamental arch acquired in India by Sir Francis Cook from Charles Canning, Governor-General of India, after the Indian Rebellion of 1857



3 Boulder House

The top floor housed the carpenter's workshop and the lower floor the oxen. Today it houses the head office of Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A.



4 Rose Garden

A collection of 200 historic rose varieties planted naturally in the valley. After complete restoration it was inaugurated by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in March 2011



5 Mexican Garden

The hottest and driest area of Monserrate, created by the diversion of water away from the centre of the valley. It contains collections of plants from hot climates. Completely restored in 2010



6 Ornamental Lakes

The largest lake has areas of various different depths and different temperatures, creating the ideal conditions for a collection of exotic aquatic plants such as papyrus plants and water lilies

