

Jardim Vista & The Vale d'Oliveiras Resort & Spa

THE SUCCESSFUL FUSION OF THE **FINEST LANDSCAPE AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN** IN THE ALGARVE, IS NOWHERE MORE EVIDENT THAN IN A STUNNING NEW LUXURY RESORT, NOW NEARING COMPLETION, JUST MINUTES FROM CARVOEIRO AND THE MANY GOLFING, SPORTING, SEASIDE AND LEISURE FACILITIES NEARBY

“They realized the incredible importance of landscaping”. So remarked Richard Westcott in admiringly tones - head of Iberia’s leading landscapers, Jardim Vista SA - of his clients, Vale d'Oliveiras Resort & Spa,

whilst directing final planting operations at the magnificent nine hectare site.

This realization, now abundantly apparent to the world at large, is presently coming to full, fruitful and aromatic maturity

at the extensive site, set in lovely rolling countryside beside the fairways of Pestana’s Gramacho course and the long vistas to Monchique’s distant blue hills.

Set generously, yet unobtrusively, on the undulating land, the Vale d'Oliveiras Resort & Spa nestles low in the embrace of an enfolding natural landscape, that merges imperceptibly into a verdant Jardim Vista garden of a scale, a refinement and a delicacy rarely seen in developments of this nature.

“This”, says Richard, “has been an outstanding collaboration for Jardim Vista. We share a common ethos here – in particular, that the gardens and landscaping are integral to the total Vale d'Oliveira’s experience. So we have had our client’s full backing to make the most of every design possibility.”

The results are now there to be seen. The resort’s low rise, low density construction – reminiscent of an awe-inspiring, sprawling, traditional country estate, but occupying just 15% of the available land area – has been dressed in a natural, languid landscaping style, exuding a powerful Mediterranean or Tuscan flavour and blending seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.

Abundant plantings of olive, cypress and almond trees frame stunning views in all directions, some underlaid by sweeping lawns that merge into long lines of sight with the endless fairways of Gramacho, creating a sense of enormous space.

Closer to the buildings, other indigenous species have been included in the landscaped areas and blended with Lavender, Rosemary, Santolina and Westringia to create a truly Mediterranean feel. Particular care has been taken with plantings close to each



RICHARD WESTCOTT

apartment, to provide selective screening from immediate neighbours whilst retaining coherence with, and access to, the gardens as a whole.

The most appealing single feature of the resort could well be the lure of the outdoor spaces. “The gardens”, as developer Nick Bachmann observes, “are simply an extension of each apartment – an outdoor living room, if you like. Jardim Vista has cleverly ensured that people can really use the gardens, not just look at them.”

Glorious as the resort’s surrounding areas may be, it is perhaps within the complex that Jardim Vista’s masterful art is to be seen at its finest. Radiating from a large, superbly designed central core – where reception, restaurants, (including “The Olive Tree”), shops, pools and other facilities are to be found – are five ‘cloisters’, housing the resort’s 82, one and two bedroom, fully furnished, mostly single storey apartments, along with the 22 double hotel rooms.

Here, the ‘cloisters’ each containing walkways and courtyards, have, charmingly, been both landscaped individually, in an array of distinctive styles and named individually, with a particular species of olives: “Atalanti”, “Calamata”, “Manzanilla”, “Ponentine” and “Serecena”.

Jardim Vista’s Landscape Architect, Ana Carrusca, responsible for courtyard design, points proudly to the “Orange and Lemon Tree” garden in the Atalante cloister – so simple, yet so striking, with ordered lines of trees set in beds of pebbles – and to the “Italian Formal” garden in the Manzanilla cloister, framed by box hedges and jasmine archways and planted with aromatic shrubs set in rock and gravel beds. ▶▶





►► Inert substances such as these, reduce water usage, yet provide a visual treat in combination with the many shrubs, grasses and succulents including *Agave sp.*, *Alloe sp.*, and *Kalanchoe*. Colours like the silver-greys of the *Teucrium fruticans* or *Santolina*, contrast with the deep greens of the *Viburnum tinus* or the purple of the *Phormium tenax*.

The exquisite courtyard designs, adorned by sculpted olive trees with dramatic gnarled trunks and by murmuring fountains, are seen on every passage in or out of the apartments, and from every kitchen window, below which are kitchen gardens for most units. On windy days, the courtyards provide an alluring outdoor option, thanks to the all round protection and the beauty and tranquility of the gardens.

Towards the resort's centre, alongside the outdoor pools, the health club and "The Jasmine Bar" poolside restaurant, Jardim Vista have created a more exotic, sub-tropical feel to the landscaping. Bold leafed, lush architectural foliage such as *Philodendron*, *Fatsia* and *Zantedeschia* are set amidst



cycads (*Cyca revoluta*), date palms (*Phoenix dactilifera*), washingtonia (*Washingtonia robusta*) and the native Portuguese palm, *Chamaerops humilis*.

The resort's harmony of landscape and building design - combined with the grandeur, spaciousness and accessibility of



the gardens and grounds, plus the wide array of top class facilities - makes the resort a showcase for Jardim Vista and developer alike, and an immensely appealing purchase.

With quarter share ownership available from as little as Euros 90,000 (and full ownership for 1 beds of Euros 324,000 and from Euros 414,000 for 2 beds), including the full luxury furnishing package, Vale d'Oliveiras Resort & Spa is the undoubted first choice for lovers of outdoor beauty and architectural style. ■



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