

A concise guide to the flora of the Quinta de São Pedro, Portugal.

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Flora of the Quinta de São Pedro



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A concise guide to the flora of the Quinta de São Pedro, Portugal.

This booklet introduces readers to the Flora of the Quinta São Pedro in Portugal. It is by no means a complete or comprehensive guide to the Quinta's flora but represents plants of note and distinction that were seen during a visit in March 2007. All of the plants were photographed at the Quinta with a few noted exceptions. The photographs were taken towards the end of March when an undergraduate class from the University of Sussex were participating in a field course; it is for this reason that reference is made to flowering time and characteristics of the plants at that time of year. It is hoped that this guide will act as a resource for future students who visit the Quinta both from the Sussex University and other institutions.

The booklet is organized into five principal sections. The major sections encompass trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, cacti and succulents. Within each of the sections the plants are organized by flower colour or some other distinguishing characteristic such as leaf shape or type (pines and cypress) and broad leaved evergreens. This goes against the conventions of taxonomic classification however it was deemed appropriate in this instance since this simplistic approach makes it ideal when utilized by individuals with a cursory botanical knowledge.

At the top of each page is a colour header (it may include several colours), this indicates the flower colour or other major characteristic of plants presented on that particular page, if two or more colour bars are present then several different flowering colour plants or distinct characteristics may be listed. Within each of these bars you will also see a heading depicting the category (tree, shrub, vine or herb) of the plant on that particular page; further detail of page contents is also given in the table of contents at the front of the manual while at the back of the text a common and botanical index is presented.

Several other liberties have also been taken in the grouping of plants. Firstly the concept of the difference between a tree and shrub is at times arbitrary. For the purposes of this guide I have assumed a tree as a plant with the potential to exceed 3 m in height. The classification of trees in this booklet have thus been taken from experience and observation. Shrubs are often but not always multi-stemmed plants and of course they are under 3 m in height. Again I have taken several liberties in plant groupings in this text. I have included for example *Crassula argenta* in the shrub section; we maybe familiar with this individual as a houseplant. I have included *C. argenta* as a shrub simply because in the Quinta, to the untrained eye it has the look of a shrub or even a small tree and what we might know as a 50 cm pot plant is in fact a 1 m plant with a trunk covered in what appears to resemble bark. This plant is also an example of an individual that appears in more than one section of the manual, it is listed as a shrub but more accurately in the succulent section as well.

The definition of an herb is a plant without secondary growth (woody tissue) and which typically dies back to the ground at the terminus of the growing season. That may, but does not always happen in a Mediterranean climate, but again I have based this grouping of plants on experience and observation,

Geophytes (bulbous plants), since they are few and may not be easily determined as such by casual observance are also included in the herb section.

The vines may have in some cases secondary growth making several of them a closer relative to that of the shrubs, however I have grouped all the vines together simply from the perspective that they produce long trailing or running shoots; the vines are quite an obvious group.

The Quinta has been inhabited for some 47 years and as such many people have had an influence on the planning and planting within the grounds. For that reason I have listed both the country of origin of the plants and the location within the Quinta.

An interesting note, you may realize when reading this manual that plants from all the continents except Antarctica are represented here as well as plants from some 25 countries and over 15 geographic regions including South America, North Africa, Asia, Balkans, The Middle East, Tropical South America, Central America and North America. It is the juxtaposition of native and exotic plants that make the Quinta such a unique floral environment.

An * following the botanical name of the plant indicates that only one specimen of that plant is known to exist within the Quinta grounds.

Unless noted all images were taken by the author, most on the visit to the Quinta in March, 2007. A few pictures were later taken in England and added during the production of this work. All are copyright to their respective authors.

Acknowledgements

In preparing this manual I have received considerable encouragement and assistance from several people.

Dr. Peter Scott, who initiated the idea of this booklet and who invited me to visit the Quinta and develop the project. Dr. Scott has shown great patience and humour the several months that this material was in production and was instrumental in the refinement of my Photoshop skills. Dr. Scott has supplied several of the plant images as well as the base image of the Quinta plan on page 5, Dr. Scott was also instrumental in the clarification and identification of several of the plants.

Armin Pricher the manager of the Quinta has been an enthusiastic supporter of this project, both during my visit there where he spent time with me both on the Quinta grounds and visiting a local nursery. He again was very obliging when during production of this manual helped finalize the details of plant nomenclature through E mail.

Dr. Libby John for her superb organization of the trip and for spending several hours in the field, both inside and outside the Quinta, identifying plants with me.

Map of the biological research station Quinta de São Pedro, Portugal





***Acacia cyanophylla* Blue Leaved Wattle**

An introduced tree common throughout Portugal. Used as an ornamental and as means of erosion control on sandy soils. Growing to a height of about 7 m. It may be confused with *Acacia retinoides* which has the much lighter colour flowers and is not as floriferous. Common in the Quinta, it is easy to identify by its rich yellow, orbicular shaped blooms and a slight blue tint to the foliage. As seen in the upper left picture the tree is somewhat squat and pendulous in appearance and is quite obvious when in bloom both in and outside the Quinta.

Native to: Australia.

Location in the Quinta: Along the north and south sides of the main driveway, the edges of the macchia thicket and the little valley.



***Acacia longifolia* Sydney Golden Wattle**

Similar to *A. cyanophylla* at a glance but often a larger tree to about 10 m. Foliage is very similar however with more of a distinct blue tinge to the leaves and parallel leaf venation. The blooms are quite distinct. In that they are quite long, to 5 cm and held at approximately 80° from the branches, blooming days to weeks later than both *A. cyanophylla* and *A. retinoides*. The bark is used in tanning leather.

Native to: Australia.

Location in the Quinta: Along the eastern edge of the macchia thicket on the south side of the path.



***Acacia melanoxylon* Blackwood Acacia**

A large tree, growing to about 20 m in the Quinta, the trees in the Quinta however experiencing die-back due to drought. The red aril on the seed is attractive to birds and helps in its dispersal. Since it is tolerant of lean, poor soils it is well adapted for life in Portugal. In its native Australia it readily germinates after a fire however it can also readily multiply through damaged shoots and roots, where injured, a new shoot will be produced. Rare in flower in the Quinta in March however, when in bloom it has a similar flower structure and colour to *A. retinoides*.

Blackwood Acacia commonly has two types of leaves (*heterophyllos*) rarely found on the other *Acacia* species, the compound feathery like foliage found on young growth and epicorous shoots. The mature leaves have parallel venation with 3-7 veins per leaf.

Native to: South East Australia and Tasmania.

Location in the Quinta: On the edge of the macchia thicket.



***Acacia retinoides* Water Wattle**

Often confused with *A. cyanophylla*, since it has a similar form and flower structure however the flowers are a very pale yellow compared with the dark yellow of *A. cyanophylla* with the tree as a whole being less floriferous. To about 5-7 m in height and forming a somewhat pendulous habit. Leaves are lanceolate with a slight blue tinge although not as pronounced a blue as *A. cyanophylla*.

Native to: South Australia.

Location in the Quinta: The north side of the driveway just east of the main parking lot.



Citrus limon Lemon

A small tree, to 5 m producing the typical acidic lemon fruit. The tree is often thorny, evergreen and suffers from similar insect infestations as those listed for *C. sinensis*. *C. limon* is not grown on its own roots but instead is grafted onto a reliable rootstock. It is the second most important citrus fruit ranked next to *C. sinensis*. Oil is extracted from the skins of lemon and is used in perfumery while lemon pip oil is used in the manufacture of soap.

Native to: Himalayan Region.

Location in the Quinta: The north east side of the lower meadow area in the orchard.



Citrus sinensis Orange

A small tree to about 5 m tall with a rounded crown. The tree is evergreen with the leaves being rather regularly elliptic. Often the leaves are covered with a black sooty substance and are sticky. This black soot occurs because of a fungus feeding on the sap (the stickiness) caused by either aphids or scale insect feeding. Ants will be farming these insects for their honeydew and will also be present. The flowers of *C. sinensis* are identical to *C. limon* (above) and are white upon opening are slightly fragrant. The flowers for the following crop appear as the fruit ripens.

Native to: North East India and China.

Location in the Quinta: The north east side of the lower meadow area in the orchard.



***Malus X domestica* Apple**

An often short but broad spreading tree with five petaled white flowers (typical of members of the *Roseaceae* family). The bark of *Malus* species is often coarse and divided into many plates that are dark grey in colour. The *Malus* species in the Quinta are most likely cultivated varieties but are not known at present. The tree needs a chilling period to break bud dormancy and set fruit and is thus limited commercially to the northern parts of the country and the higher altitudes of warmer regions as a viable crop. Since bud break is unreliable in the Quinta because of the warm temperatures apples could not have been grown on a commercial scale.

Native to: *Malus* are a widespread genus with the domestic apple having doubtful origins but probably from Turkestan and Northern India.

Location in the Quinta: South east side of the lower meadow area.



***Myoporum laetum** Ngaio**

A tree to about 15 m, often appearing shrubby in form. Evergreen, the leaves appear full of small holes when held to the light. These are oil glands and are characteristic of *M. laetum* and other members of its family; these glands emit a not unpleasant scent. Flowers are quite attractive and are usually borne in clusters of 4-6 in March and are white with a purple speckled throat. The tree is often planted as a windbreak in its native New Zealand due to its dense shrub like form and its evergreen leaves.

Native to: New Zealand.

Location in the Quinta: The east side of the main house, east of the patio.



Arbutus unedo

Strawberry Tree

A large shrub to small evergreen tree with distinctive red/brown bark. The tree gets its name from the strawberry like fruit that are the size of small strawberries but are not edible. The flowers are also attractive, beginning rose/pink and turning white upon opening, waxy and held in pendulous clusters flowering in February/March. The plant has quite a variable structure; it can form a shrub of medium height or a small tree where often in the cultured landscape it is pruned into such a form.

Native to: South West Ireland, France and Spain and the Mediterranean Region including the Balkan Peninsula, and Asia Minor.

Location in the Quinta: The macchia thicket.



Robinia pseudacacia

False Acacia, Black Locust, Locust Tree

A large tree, to 20 m that is often naturalized. Originally introduced for its large (20 cm) very attractive, pendulous racemes of white flowers. The stipules (appendage at the base of the petiole) are spiny, often to 5cm on young, immature trees. Leaves are compound and contain have from 11-23 leaflets, with the entire leaf being about 20 cm long. Seed pods (typical of the Fabaceae family) , to 10 cm long are produced in late summer and occasionally persist on the branches through the winter months. The tree has a habit of dropping dead twigs which is one of the main drawbacks to its use as an ornamental. The tree is well suited to dry lean soils.

Native to: North America.

Location in the Quinta: The west side of north south path from the upper meadow to the lower meadow.



Eucalyptus globulus Tasmanian Blue Gum

A large tree, to 35m, easily identified by its exfoliating blue/grey bark, its thin lanceolate blue tinged leaves and its somewhat pendulous foliage habit. The wood from the Tasmanian Blue Gum is of limited commercial value since the main saw logs are often full of pockets of gum which would clog saw blades, hence its common name. *E. globulus* is often used as a windbreak and is frequently grown on marginal land as it is one of the few species that will establish under almost impossible conditions. There are two types of foliage of *E. globulus*, juvenile (top right) and mature foliage (second from right). The immature foliage is often found around the base of trees and along the trunk as epicormic shoots, which are frequently produced as the result of fire or other injury.

Native to: South East Australia.

Location in the Quinta: Immediately north of the dormitories and north of the entrance gate to the Quinta.



*Grevillea robusta** Silk Oak, Golden Pine

To 20m, one of the largest trees on the Quinta it generally flowers in June/July in Portugal. A popular ornamental tree in its homeland it is grown both as an ornamental (mass floral displays), and a commercial tree. The flowers which are rich in nectar attract a wide variety of nectar feeding birds and insects. The wood is harvested commercially in Australia because of its attractive patterns. Often grown in poor soil conditions where it seems to thrive and as a result it can and is used in its native country for soil retention and erosion control purposes. Frequently planted in Australia and the western United States as a street tree, it often grows too large for home plantings.

Native to: Australia.

Location in the Quinta: Immediately south east of the rear of old Quinta house, at the corner of the service sheds



*Ceratonia siliqua** Carob or Locust Tree

An evergreen tree to about 12 m, with large leathery, compound leaves with 4-10 leaflets per leaf. The flowers are green or red dish brown and are quite small found on lateral racemes. The flowers are either male or hermaphrodite, no female flowers exist. The plant has some interesting uses. Its large pods to about 20 cm in length are very sweet and are used as a fodder for cattle. The fruit also used in the production of carob chocolate. The seeds from the pods were the original 'carats' standard used by jewelers since they were of an unusually consistent size.

Native to: Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: Directly west of the rear of the main house.



Populus nigra * Black Poplar

A very fast growing and often short lived tree to about 20 m in height. It is commonly seen growing in lowland and moist areas and has a reputation for clogging underground sewer pipes in the search for moisture. A deciduous tree, the leaves emerge and dull red/brown in the spring and fade to a light green quite quickly. The leaves have unusually long petioles which cause the leaves to flutter in the slightest breeze, hence in may mistakenly be referred to as the Trembling Aspen which is *P. tremuloides*, a North American species. The genus is also known for the fine cotton like seed that is produced in mid-summer, often seen as a dusting of white on ponds and lakes. Since it is a very fast growing tree, the wood is extremely weak and has a high moisture content, making it brittle and useless as a construction or fuelwood.

Native to: Central and South eastern Europe.

Location in the Quinta: The meadow area just west of the path to the back gate.



***Ficus carica* Fig**

A small broad spreading tree to 3 m often found growing in dry rocky places. Leaves are large, palmate and 10-20 cm in size. When a leaf is removed from the plant, the *Ficus* will exude a white, milky latex sap: some individuals may be allergic to this sap and develop skin rashes. The fruit is easily recognizable as pear shaped, to about 8 cm in length, green, turning purple/black when ripe. The fruit appear in the summer, ripen over the winter and are harvested the following summer. It is widely cultivated in the Mediterranean region and is eaten by many as a staple food. The fruit may be dried or eaten fresh, however it is said that half ripe figs are poisonous. The fruit has medicinal value as well, they are used as a laxative and roast figs can be used a poultice for wounds and boils etc. Most cultivated forms ripen without fertilization from a male flower (parthenocarpous).

Native to: The Mediterranean Region (exact origin unknown). **Location in the Quinta:** South east of the main house near the service buildings.



***Eriobotrya japonica* Japanese Loquat**

A vigorous evergreen tree or large shrub to 4 m in height assuming a rounded form with upward pointing branches. The large leaves are about 8-15 cm long and are a deeply textured dark green on top, while the bottom surface is light green and slightly fuzzy. Scented, furry looking white flowers grow in terminal clusters in late fall. They are followed by small, edible yellow fruits in spring. Loquat is a tasty fruit that can be enjoyed fresh, dried or in jams and preserves.

Native to: Japan and China

Location in the Quinta: South east side of the lower meadow area.

***Jacaranda ovalifolia******Jacaranda**

A small deciduous tree or large shrub to about 4 m, when not in leaf appears as a deadstick because of little lateral branching. Grown for its large purple/blue blooms held on panicles to 25 cm in length. The leaves are bi-pinnately compound and are quite long (40 cm) but appear almost fern like in their demeanor. The pods persist on the tree through the dormant phase and are orbicular in shape to about 8 cm across. The tree rarely flowers when young and is often grown in pots so that it may be moved into positions of prominence when in flower and then moved out of view when the blooms are spent since when not in bloom it is quite an ugly plant.

Native to: Brazil

Location in the Quinta: In the upper centre island bed directly in front of Armin's house (there is only one tree in the Quinta) and outside of the Quinta immediately south of the gate (these trees have flowered as evidenced by the fruit pictured above).

***Pinus pinea*****Stone Pine, Umbrella Pine**

A large tree to 25 m, common throughout Portugal and the surrounding area. Easily distinguishable at a distance by its broad, flat crown, giving it a somewhat majestic, regal appearance in the surrounding flora. Large rounded cones, to about 12–20 cm in length are dark brown in colour. With a very short stalk. The cones are harvested and the seed extracted commercially. The pine nut may be eaten raw or cooked and has a taste similar to almonds. The wood of *P. pinea* is frequently used in carpentry and furniture construction. The grey bark flakes to reveal a reddish brown colour commonly seen on older trees.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.

***Pinus halepensis*****Aleppo Pine**

Needles in pairs however three needles can occasionally be found. Egg shaped cones on trees are often retained. The tree grows to about 20 m in height and is quite common in the region. A very tough, drought resistant tree that is grown primarily for its timber. In Greece the resin is harvested and used to flavour the local wine called Retsina.

Native to: The Western Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.

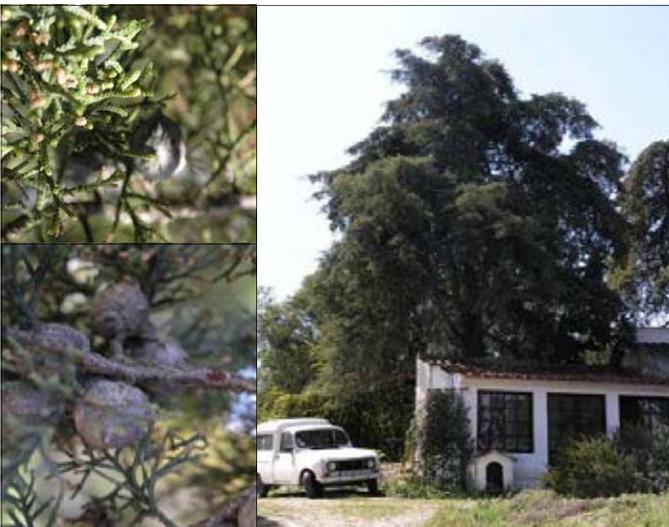
***Platycladus orientalis* *****Oriental Cedar**

A common landscape shrub both in Portugal and in England. Related to the cedars (*Thuja sp.*) is a small tree, to about 8 m, that is grown primarily for its fresh looking evergreen foliage even in hot, dry summers. It is often grown as a hedge, since it can withstand severe pruning.

Foliage is distinctively aromatic (cedar) when crushed.

Native to: North and West China.

Location in the Quinta: North side of the main drive.

***Cupressus sempervirens* var. *horizontalis******Italian Cypress**

A close sister of the plant opposite it has similar foliage, flower and fruit characteristics as *C. sempervirens* however it is the arrangement of the branches that causes the confusion. More a typical evergreen green form, the heavily foliage laden branches give the tree a somewhat drooping appearance. *C. sempervirens* var. *horizontalis* may reach a height of 20 m.

Native to: The Mediterranean region

Location in the Quinta: Behind Armin's house.

***Cupressus sempervirens* * Funeral Cypress**

Often called the Funeral Cypress since it is frequently found in the Mediterranean region growing in graveyards. Indictable by its rigid form, the cones are also an indicator of Cupressus; small, to about 5cm and often an olive green in colour and ripening in their second year. Tolerant of very dry, lean soils it can reach 10 m in height.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: North side of the main drive.



Quercus coccifera Kermes or Holly Oak

Often seen as a large shrub and infrequently as a small tree it is found growing as an edge species on dry forests of the marquis and garrigue often in growing in association with *Q. suber* and *Pinus pinea*. The key identification characteristic are its leaves, which look very similar to holly. What can be mistaken for fruit are the red galls (top left) caused by an insect irritation. *Q. coccifera* is the host for a scale insect called *Coccus ilicis* which has been used to yield a fine cochineal-like dye.

Native: Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey and Cyprus.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Quercus suber Cork Oak

A medium sized broadleaf evergreen tree to about 8m with a broad spreading crown. Easily identified by the downy underside to both the leaf and young twigs and of course its cork like bark. Often found growing in association with *Q. coccifera*, *Pinus pinea* and *Pistachia lentiscus* in dry woodlands. The tree is often seen in Portugal grown in orchards where its bark is harvested for the wine industry. Cork is initially harvested when the tree has reached twenty years of age and then usually at 9 year intervals. Freshly harvested bark is dried, then boiled to remove impurities and to help soften it. The cork is cut either parallel to the lenticels (permeable) or at right angles (airtight). *Q. suber* can survive the process of cork harvesting for as long as 500 years.

Native: Mediterranean, Eastern Europe and North West Yugoslavia.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Chamaerops humilis Dwarf Fan Palm

A monocotyledon tree, one of only two species of palm native to the Mediterranean region, the other being *Phoenix theophrasti*. *C. humilis* is a slow growing palm. It has as its common name implies fan shaped leaves. Flowers are large (10 cm+) and are evident in the leaf axils of the tree. Very common throughout the region.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: The island bed above (south) the fire pit.



Daphne gnidium Mediterranean Mezereon

D. gnidium is common throughout Portugal and is frequently found on dry land such as the Macchia. Flowers are white and scented, and are often followed by red berries. It has many cousins that are planted in the landscape. Look for long stems and branches with raised lenticels.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Crassula argenta Jade Plant

Although not a shrub I have placed it here since it may be confused with one because of its size. It is actually a succulent and is often seen in cultivation in the windows of Chinese restaurants, being sign of good luck. It is recognized by its spatulate leaves that are very thick and fleshy. It can be propagated easily by rooting a leaf in the soil.

This plant is again featured on page 54 as a succulent.

Native to: South Africa.

Location in the Quinta: South side of the drive at the front gate and the south east corner of the main house just off the patio.



*Dracaena marginata** Corn Plant

A common plant often sold in DIY stores since it is easy to grow in the house in low light. Lanceolate leaves to 50-70 cm make this plant easily identifiable. It can reach heights of 5 m and produce a trunk of considerable girth if grown in sufficient light. A common house plant it is also planted in the warmer parts of England as a garden plant; there are several growing in Brighton.

Native to: South America.

Location in the Quinta: South side of the drive at the front gates.



Laurus nobilis Sweet Bay, Laurel

A small evergreen shrub to about 5 m but frequently less. Found growing on dry scrub such, it is a common plant throughout the region. Used extensively as a herb in cooking it was also once made into laurel wreaths that would adorn local heroes. The wood and leaves have a very high oil content making it somewhat explosive when burnt.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Myrtus communis Common Myrtle

Myrtle is a very common shrub found growing in association with plants such as the Sweet Bay (opposite) in dry areas such as the Macchia. The leaves are aromatic when crushed and are used for cooking as well as the perfume industry. It may also be seen as an ornamental in gardens where it is frequently clipped and pruned into various shapes.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Euonymus japonicus* Japanese Euonymus

The Japanese Euonymus is a common cultivated evergreen plant both in the Mediterranean region and throughout England. The plant pictured above is a horticultural variety of unknown origin however it does revert; where the variegated foliage is lost to the aggressive photosynthetically hyper green leaves of the original plant. Horticultural selections commonly referred to as cultivars are usually developed or bred from anomalies in species stock. Hence if you look at the cultivars of *E. japonicus* that are available you will find literally hundreds of different forms.

Native to: Species, Japan, the plant above is of garden origin.

Location in the Quinta: South east corner of the old house, near patio.



Unknown

Identification will be confirmed on a future visit to the Quinta.

Native to: ?

Location in the Quinta: The west side of north south path from the

Unknown



Cistus crispus Rockrose

The *Cistus* group of plants are very common throughout Portugal, and are found on rocky, lean ground such as the edges of macchia, garrigue and maquis. *C. crispus* is identifiable by its wavy or crinkled leaf margins that is stemless and its pale lilac blooms (most *Cistus* are white flowered). The foliage is fragrant when crushed.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region to North Africa.

Location in the Quinta: Edges of the macchia thicket.



Pistachia lentiscus Lentisc, Mastic Tree

A large evergreen shrub but very rarely a small tree to about 3 m. Found growing on dry, lean soils such as the garrigue and maquis. The resinous sap was once used as a chewing gum, there is today a liqueur distilled from the berries called *mastiche* while a sweet (*masticha*) is also made from it in Arab countries. It has glossy, fresh-looking leaves.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: The edges of the macchia thicket.



*Grevillea juniperiana** Juniper Grevillea

A small shrub to about 1 m, similar in its foliage characteristics to that of the evergreen juniper, a common ornamental grown in temperate climates. Covered in unusual red flowers in March/April in Portugal. The plant at the Quinta is a cultivar but we are not sure which one since it is a very popular ornamental in Portugal. Both *G. juniperiana* and *G. rosmarinifolia* flowers are rich in nectar which can be sucked from the individual florets. In their native Australia both species are pollinated by a bird; the honey catcher.

Native: Australia.

Location in the Quinta: At the corner of Armin's house.



*Grevillea rosmarinifolia** Rosemary Grevillea

A small shrub to about 1 m, similar in its foliage characteristics to that of the native Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* page 20), very similar in character to *G. juniperiana* (opposite) but with softer foliage and smaller flowers. Again, a common landscape plant and this is probably an improved cultivar.

Native: Australia.

Location in the Quinta: To the west of Armin's house.



Escallonia macrantha* **Escallonia**

A large evergreen shrub often planted for hedges, it is both salt and wind tolerant. Appearing as a large, coarse looking shrub, with very shiny evergreen leaves and bright red/pinkish flowers throughout the year. Often used as a hedge since its growth is so thick it makes an impenetrable border.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: The front of Armin's house.



Nerium oleander **Oleander**

A common landscape plant planted for its showy blooms which are held in terminal clusters and range in colour from red, pink to white and yellow. The shrub can reach heights and widths in excess of 3 m. Note, all parts of the plant are poisonous. Leaves are evergreen, lanceolate to 10 cm and arranged in loose whorls.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: North side of main drive at the corner of



Lantana camara* **Common Lantana**

A very common shrub, both in the cultivated and naturalized landscape. The leaves are rough and the stems appear at the touch to be prickly although no true thorns are present. Flower colour is variable with many escaped cultivars naturalized; orange, yellow, cream and all colour combinations in between as the flower above demonstrates. Small black fruit, resembling shiny beads can be found after flowering. Requires full sun and likes fast draining soils. *L. camara* is also somewhat salt tolerant but invasive species.

Native to: Tropical South America.

Location in the Quinta: South east corner of the old house, near patio.



Rosemarinus officinalis **Rosemary**

Rosemary should be a familiar shrub to many of us since it is a popular culinary woody herb. Often grown in gardens both in Portugal and England it has deeply lanceolate aromatic leaves and pale blue flowers. Found growing in Portugal in dry, rock places if is not an uncommon plant. Horticultural varieties have been developed and you may see forms of the plant with varying degrees of blue flowers to both pink and white. Some forms are pendulous in their growth habit while others are narrow and upright.

Native to: Mediterranean Europe.

Location in the Quinta: Central flower bed above fire pit.



Cistus landanifer Gum Cistus

One of the largest of the *Cistus* species found growing in Portugal, easily identified by its large flowers (8 cm across) with distinctive black blotches in the centre. Very sticky leaves from which a resinous gum is obtained known as laudanum which is used in perfumery. *C. landanifer* is one of the largest plants of the genus reaching a height of over 1 m.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Cistus salvifolius Sage Leaved Cistus

Often found growing in association with *C. crispus*, they are easily distinguished by their flower colour (*C. crispus* is pink flowered) and their leaves, the leaves of *C. salvifolius* are oval-oblong, stalked and wrinkled and are hardly aromatic. The leaves are not sticky as *C. landanifer*.

Native to: The Mediterranean Region.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Phillyrea angustifolia Phillyrea

A small evergreen shrub to about 1.5 m, similar in its foliage characteristics to that of the Oleander (page 20) but with the leaves shorter and not as leathery. The thickened stems of *P. angustifolia*, *P. media* and *P. latifolia* are used to make charcoal with the leaves being used in herbal remedies. A very unassuming shrub that would be passed over if not in flower; while in flower it is not spectacular.

Native: Portugal to Yugoslavia.

Location in the Quinta: Macchia thicket.



Viburnum tinus Laurustinus

A native, large rounded form, evergreen shrub to 5-7 m and occasionally planted in the cultured landscape for its large white flower umbels and shiny leaves. After flowering the shrub produces black shiny berries. *V. tinus* prefers partial shade and semi-moist soils.

Not particularly common, however there are two plants in the Quinta.

Native: Mediterranean Europe.

Location in the Quinta: The corner of the service sheds, south east of the main house.

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