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Introduction

Tile production in Portugal dates to the second half of the 16th century, when Flemish craftsmen settled in the country. From that time onwards, the first pottery workshops began to emerge, where tiles were later produced using a new technique: faience.

Its affirmation as an identity art took place during the following century, with its use in wall coverings and as a decorative and architectural element.

Additionally, in the municipality of Bombarral, tilemaking gained its greatest expression from the 17th century onwards.

Town Hall

In this 14th-century building, once known as the Palácio dos Henriques as it was owned by the family, there is a significant collection of tile panels, dating from 1989, representing the emblematic places, customs and traditions of the municipality.

Designed by Manuel Gaspar, the panels, in shades of blue on a white background, feature tile sets made up of frames with stylized fruit and leaf designs in blue, green and yellow.

Opening hours: Group visits by appointment

Address: Praça do Município, 2540-046 Bombarral

Contacts: +351 262 609 053 | turismo@cm-bombarral.pt

Caminhos de Ferro Train Station

One of Bombarral's visit cards, in one of its gateways to the county, of 19th-century architecture, features bucolic spaces, figures, traditions and viticulture through magnificent tiles by Jorge Pinto.

Jorge Pinto is said to have been one of the partners, along with Conceição e Silva, of Fábrica Arcoleana, founded in 1909 to respond to a major order. For this reason, he continued to sign the tiles with reference to this factory even after its closure.

The tile panels in this railway station, possibly made from photographs, help to perpetuate local memory, giving the area a high historical and symbolic value. It is, in fact, the only station with tiles by him and the last known work.

Hours: Not applicable

Address: Rua Júlio Tornelli, 2540-112 Bombarral

Contacts: +351 262 609 053 | turismo@cm-bombarral.pt

Municipal Market

In addition to the colors and aromas of the fruit and vegetables you'll find at the Municipal Market, discover the tile panels of the former Quinta de Santo António, belonging to the Patuleia family. In addition to its artistic value, this is an example of good practice in safeguarding and preserving the municipality's cultural heritage. Bombarral City Council obtained a donation from the Oitante company, which allowed it to be restored and preserved in a place protected from the weather and potential vandalism.

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday, from 8:00 to 13:00. Closed on Mondays.

Address: Rua Heróis do Ultramar, 2540-049 Bombarral

Contacts: +351 262 609 053 | turismo@cm-bombarral.pt

Quinta das Cerejeiras (Estate)

As part of the Quinta das Cerejeiras complex, the house where Abel Pereira da Fonseca lived, commonly known in architecture as “*Casa à Portuguesa*”, has a 17th century tile panel on the main façade by Jorge Pinto.

In this house, the author uses a larger-scale cobalt blue painting on the exterior staircase, which combines Baroque expression with an *Art Nouveau* language.

Inside, it also decorated the main vestibule. Depicting the process of harvesting and producing wine grapes, the ashlar is surrounded by dense moldings.

Thanks to the quality of the artist's work, a notable painter of the *Art Nouveau* period in Portugal, his name was suggested to decorate the Bombarral railway station.

This Quinta is also home to the Capela de Madre Deus, a building dating back to the 16th century. The façade features a tiled cross with a pedestal filled with a pattern. Its shafts are formed by a border with a sgraffito legend in two white tiles. At the base, there are two green tiles cut out to form a pair of nails alluding to Calvary. Inside, the walls are covered in the usual “maçaroca” pattern of 2x2 tiles and the barrel vault is covered in carpet tiles with a larger pattern with images imitating brocade, dating from the 17th century.

The most notable piece in this chapel is the altar frontal with 6x13 tiles, bordered by cornerstones with imitation lace painted in blue. The frontal follows the textile model widely used in 17th century Portuguese tiles, with a towel pelmet as the finishing touch, with hanging bangs.

Opening hours: Visits by appointment

Address: Largo dos Aviadores, 2540-032 Bombarral

Contacts: +351 262 609 197 | comercial@sanguinhal.pt

Tile Panel of Santo António

On the façade of this urban building, you can see a panel of tiles from the late 1930s by António Costa, produced by Cerâmica Lusitana, where he was director of the enamel

painting department. Established in 1905 in Lisbon and associated with the development of Portuguese civil construction, this factory also played an important role around tiles by introducing innovative methods and carrying out projects in various places in Portugal. It operated until the end of the 1970s on the site where the headquarters of Caixa Geral de Depósitos are located today.

Opening hours: Not applicable

Address: Largo António Bruno Patuleia n.º 85, 2540-031 Bombarral

Contacts: +351 262 609 053 | turismo@cm-bombarral.pt

Hermitage of Nossa Senhora do Socorro

This hermitage, built in 1574 by Salvador Gil and Barbora Henriques, is one of the best examples in the county. The covering of tiles of a Marian nature, painted in blue and white, takes center stage, since on the walls of the temple we find several panels, dating from around 1733, alluding to the life of the Virgin Mary.

The master tiler of the palace, Bartolomeu Antunes (1688-1753), and the painter Nicolau de Freitas (1703-1765) are responsible for the panels in this jewel of the Joanine Baroque.

Opening hours: Visits by appointment

Address: Estrada Senhora do Socorro, 2540-364 Carvalhal

Contacts: +351 262 605 691 | santuario.sr.jesus@sapo.pt

Church of Santíssimo Sacramento

Popular tradition has it that its construction was ordered in the first half of the 16th century by Queen Leonor, as it belonged to the estate of the Casa das Rainhas, although the building dates from after her death.

Here you can see one of the most remarkable tile coverings in the region, with the use of “carpet” tiles in blue, white and yellow, integrated into the architecture of the entire church: walls, nave arches and arches of the chancel chapels. In this church we find panels alluding to the “Virgin and Child”.

Opening hours: Visits by appointment

Address: Largo do Santíssimo, 2540-371 Carvalhal

Contacts: +351 262 605 691 | santuario.sr.jesus@sapo.pt

Church of Nossa Senhora da Purificação

Built at the beginning of the 16th century by Francisco Gorjão and his wife Beatriz Henriques, it has a polychrome blue and yellow tile covering, especially the rare tiles on the high altar, identical to those in the Chapel of Madre Deus in the town of Bombarral.

Opening hours: Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm and Sundays from 10.30am to 11.30am
(other times by appointment)

Address: Largo Nossa Sra. da Purificação 5, 2540-167 Roliça

Contacts: paroquiadaroliça@gmail.com

Bijou Pastry Shop

Located on the site where, until 1932, the 15th century Hermitage and Albergaria do Espírito Santo stood, the Bijou pastry shop has a panel of tiles by Maria da Natividade Mendes and produced by Ceramarte.

This company, located in Bombarral and founded in 1969 by Virgílio Correia and his mother, Alice Correia, was dedicated to reproducing Portuguese-made dishes, platters, tiles and pieces from the 16th to 19th centuries, based on models from museums and antique collections that were the subject of the founder's research. Maria da Natividade Mendes (the ceramist Maria Mendes), who was married to Virgílio Correia, worked there. The factory closed in 1991.

Opening hours: Visits by appointment

Address: Rua Dom Afonso Henriques 47, 2540-081 Bombarral

Contacts: +351 918 581 937| info@pastelaria-bijou.pt