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NINE DOTS

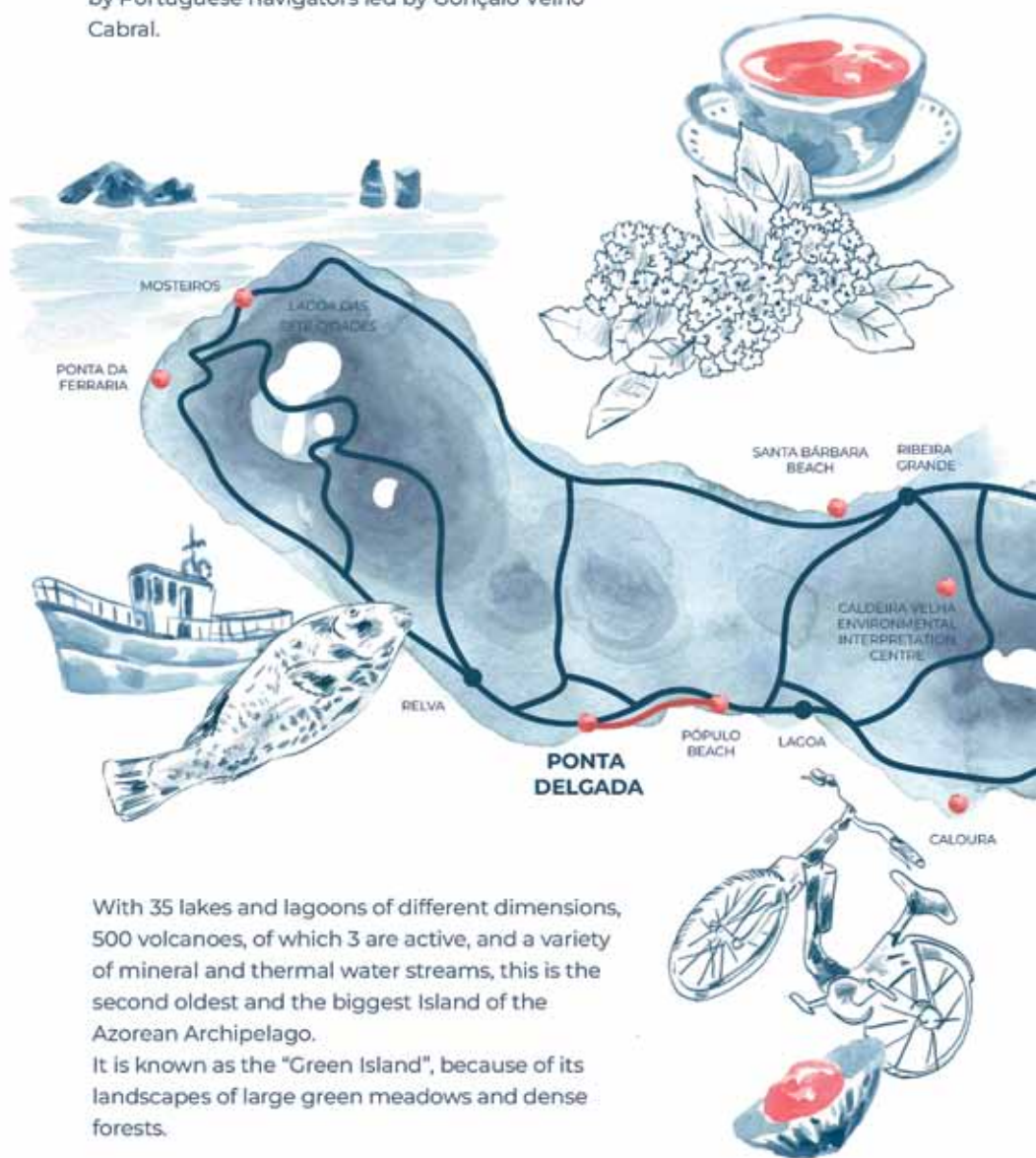
AZOREAN ART
BOUTIQUE HOTEL



THE HOTEL

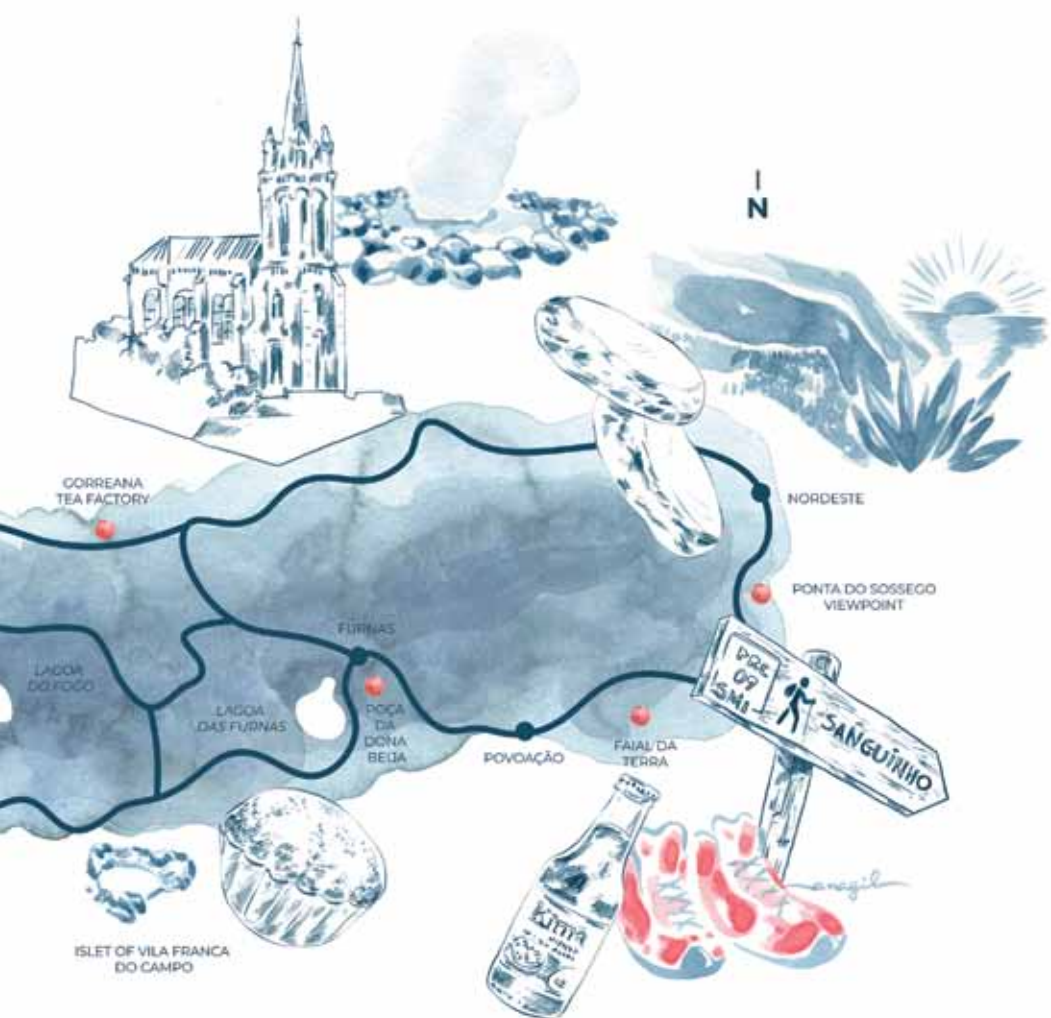
MAP OF SÃO MIGUEL

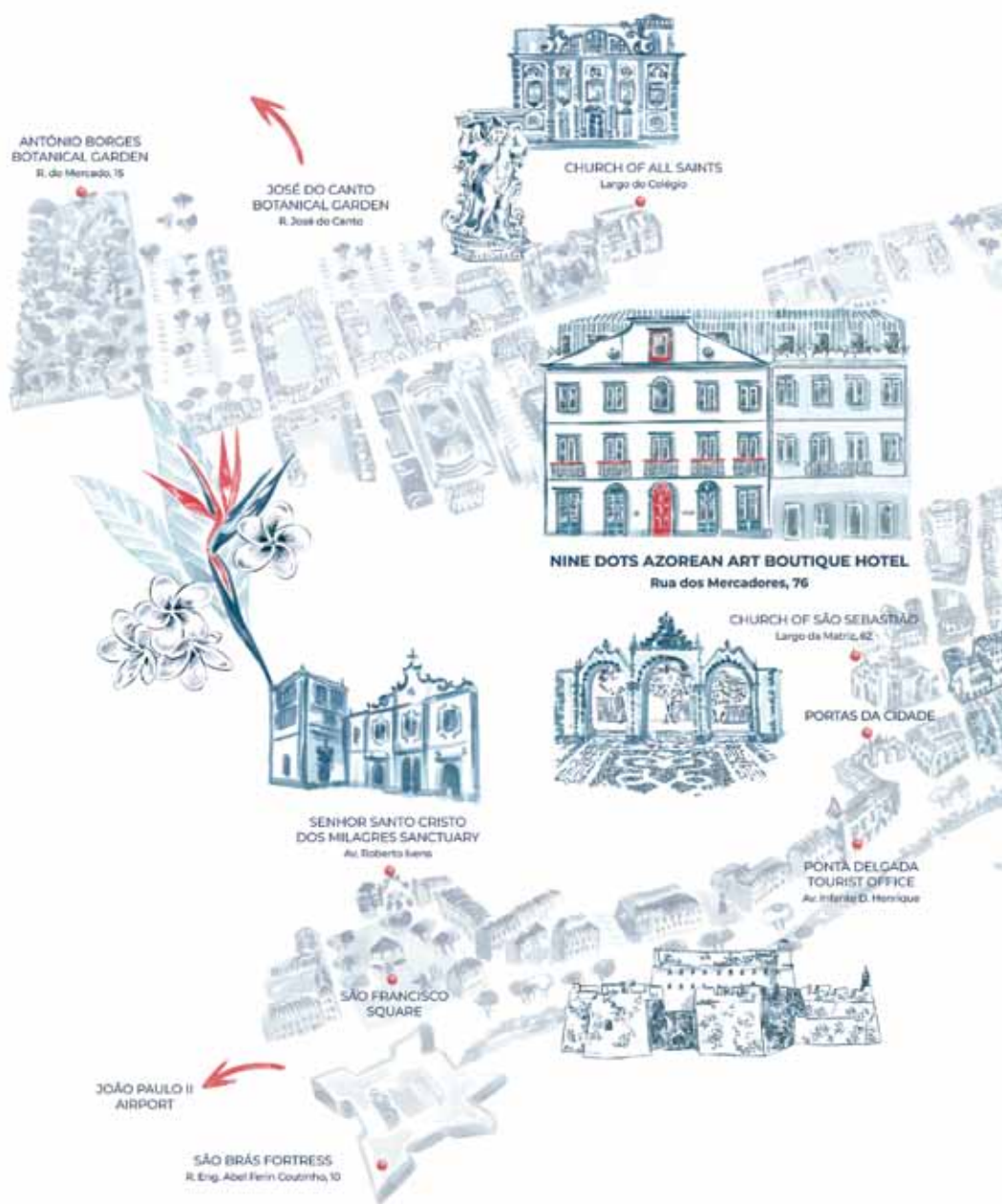
The Island of São Miguel was discovered between 1427 and 1431, soon after the Island of Santa Maria, by Portuguese navigators led by Gonçalo Velho Cabral.



With 35 lakes and lagoons of different dimensions, 500 volcanoes, of which 3 are active, and a variety of mineral and thermal water streams, this is the second oldest and the biggest Island of the Azorean Archipelago.

It is known as the "Green Island", because of its landscapes of large green meadows and dense forests.

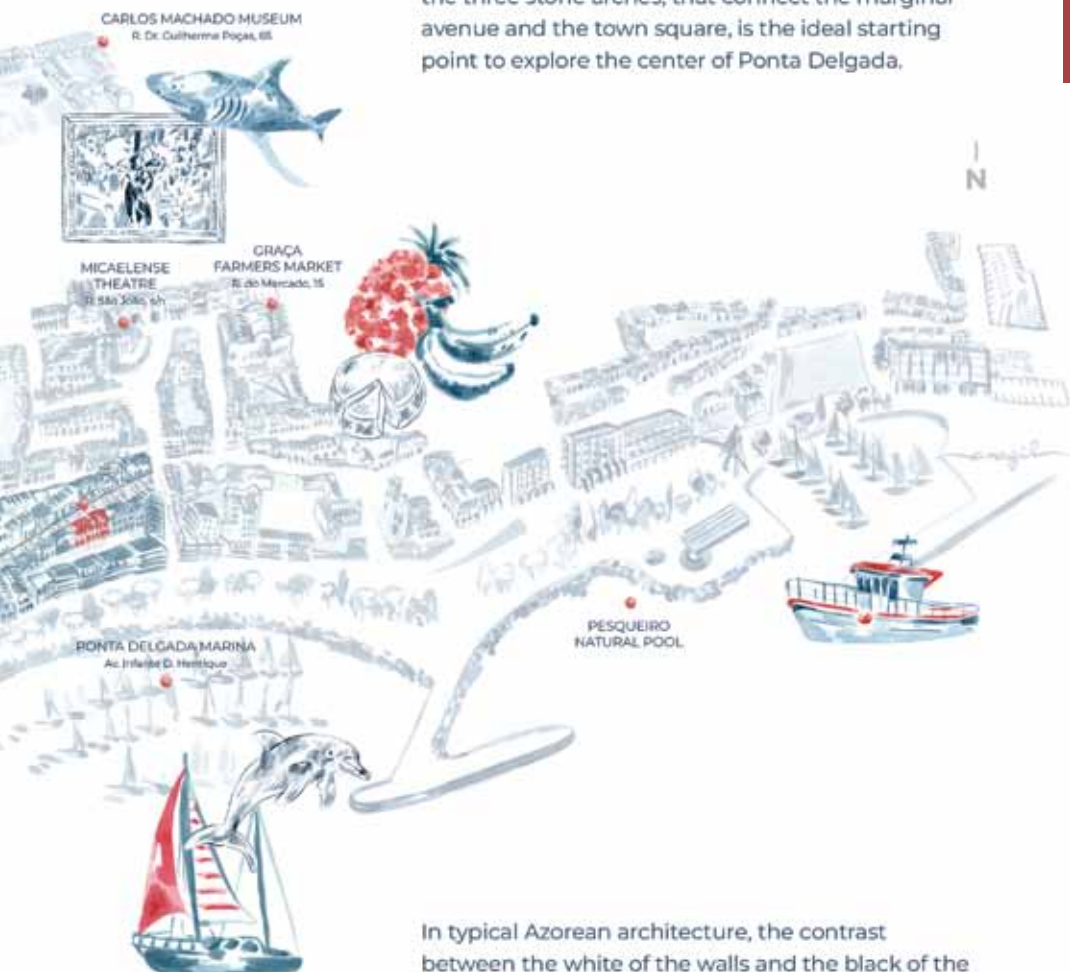




MAP OF PONTA DELGADA

In the heart of Ponta Delgada

Portas da Cidade – the city doors, easily identified by the three stone arches, that connect the marginal avenue and the town square, is the ideal starting point to explore the center of Ponta Delgada.



In typical Azorean architecture, the contrast between the white of the walls and the black of the volcanic, basalt stone, that surrounds the buildings is remarkable. The same contrast is present in the paving stones that run along the city.

RUA DOS MERCADORES

"This city of Ponta Delgada is called so for being located at the tip of a stone biscuit, thin and not thick (...) almost shallow, next to the sea."*

(Gaspar Frutuoso, 1580/90)

**'Ponta Delgada' means 'thin tip' in Portuguese*

Located in the commercial center of the island, Rua dos Mercadores (Merchants' Street) has kept its name **since the 16th century**, being one of the two main structural roads, from which the city's urban center expanded.

Despite the close connection to the sea, through the nearby dock ('Cais da Alfândega'), in Rua dos Mercadores the introspective character of the buildings is most remarkable, with fronts facing the inner streets, and backs against the sea, protected by high stone walls.

In Rua dos Mercadores, the only access to the sea was through 'Travessa do Arco' towards 'Calhau do Laguim', a place where women used to go, in the low tide, to wash clothes in a small stream, the "Ribeira de Valverde".



Throughout the decades of 1940-50, several urban transformations of the seafront area changed the paradigm of the original buildings, leading to the demolition of the ancient pier and hiding away the disorderly backside of the existing buildings, through the creation of a new line of buildings with facades facing the sea.

Nowadays, Rua dos Mercadores maintains its identity as **one of the most emblematic streets** of Ponta Delgada, preserving its urban dynamic and commercial character.



THE HOTEL

THE PROJECT

A Hotel of Azorean 'body and soul'

The Azores are popularly known as “**nine dots in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean**”, an archipelago of nine islands located approximately in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. However, the name NINE DOTS is related with more than just the number of islands in Azores.

The choice of the word “dots” reflects the essence and the connection of the project to art, alluding to **pointillism**, a painting technique, born from expressionism, which uses dots to portray landscapes, environments, people, and situations. Ana Vieira, a famous artist with Azorean roots, is an example of an artist that uses this technique in many of her masterpieces, like in her painting ‘Comboio’, 1973.

NINE DOTS Azorean Art Boutique Hotel was born from the will to create a new concept of accommodation, where besides comfort and well-being we give you the possibility of enjoying unique examples of Azorean art and culture in all its shapes and forms. From this idea, a hotel with Azorean body and soul emerged, where every single space contributes to creating unique memories and offers you a little more than what you would expect to find in the Azores.



VIEIRA, ANA.
Comboio. 1973

Being an urban hotel, its location allows you to experience the city life, but also to explore the island and have access to all the experiences São Miguel has to offer, from a central point.

The Hotel was built from the **transformation of two formerly independent buildings**, maintaining their singular architectural characteristics and the urban scale of Rua dos Mercadores.

In the final architecture of the Hotel, distinctive elements of the Azorean architecture from the original buildings were preserved and combined with modern elements, inspired in the specific characteristics of the islands, making our space unique and creating a remarkable experience for our guests and visitors.

HERITAGE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

NINE DOTS was born from two independent buildings of different characteristics – the first building of manorial origin, with more generous and rich features, and the second one with a more modest, domestic character. Despite the urban configuration of Rua dos Mercadores and part of the construction elements being originally from the 15th and 16th centuries, these buildings suffered several interventions throughout the years, with the more significant changes taking place in the 18th and 19th centuries, when the largest transformations in the city and in the local society occurred.

PRESERVATION OF ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

During the transformation of the two buildings into a hotel, different approaches were used to preserve and restore the most significant elements and to relocate and reuse original parts, raw materials and vegetable elements. When needed, the introduction of new materials and elements was done in a way that respects the pre-existing ones.

Some examples of the preserved and reused elements:

- The **stone pavements** in the entrance, corridors, garden, terraces, and new stairs of the hotel, as well as the reception desk, came from the reutilization of huge stone slabs that existed in the building, which were disassembled in the beginning of the construction. The **stone bench** in our Wellness Center is a “small” example of one of those slabs in their raw state.
- The **stone arches**, which are typical elements of the Azorean architecture, were preserved to sustain the atmosphere of the Wellness Center, resulting in a unique environment for the swimming pool.
- The **water fountain**, originally located in the old kitchen of the manor house, was restored and relocated and now embellishes our Garden.
- The tree ***Camellia japonica*** already inhabited the original garden of one of the buildings. During the intervention it was transplanted, survived and

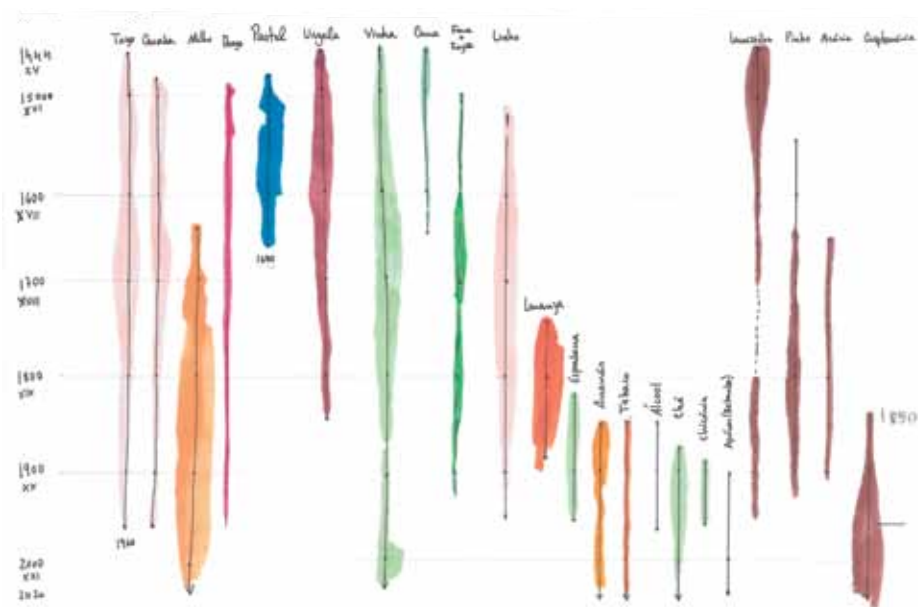


returned home, where its roots, filed with history, continue to grow.

- The **stone stairs**, between the ground floor, the first and the second floors are the original ones and a huge effort was made not to damage them during the intervention.
- Many of the wood works that ornament the **staves and the door flags** of the common areas were restored. In some cases, when restoration was impossible due to deterioration, they were replicated from the original elements to preserve the building's identity and character.
- The **tiles** that encircle the front of the second building are replicas of the original tiles, made to preserve its distinctive facade, that stands out in the architectural context of Ponta Delgada.

AZOREAN COLORS AND TEXTURES THAT BRING LIFE TO NINE DOTS

The history of São Miguel was written by different arts, industries, and cultures. For NINE DOTS decoration we got our inspiration from the colors and textures that defined the Azorean landscape over the centuries, in order to create an ambiance of comfort and harmony, perfectly aligned with our concept.



Chromatic study

prepared by the team of Architects (*knn arquitectos* and *DRAF Arquitectos*)
for the decoration project of NINE DOTS



YELLOW

Linen • *Linum Usitatissimum*

Linen was part of the Azorean textile industry between the 16th century and the 1930s. The Galician linen, which was the species cultivated in the Azores, required cool lands and a humid climate to grow and was worked from cultivation until the transformation into thread, ready to be weaved.



Wheat

"Terras de Pão" (or 'Bread lands') is an Azorean expression, related with the cultivation of wheat, which was one of the first and most important cultures in the Azores. Given the land richness, wheat cultivated in the Azores supplied not only the Archipelago, but also mainland Portugal from the 15th century until the 1960s (including the maritime expansion campaign of the 15th and 16th centuries).



Corn

This cereal from South America was introduced in the Azores in the beginning of the 17th century and became one of the most important cultures in the Archipelago, becoming even more important than wheat in the 18th century.

And more...

Other cultures inspired the use of yellow in NINE DOTS, like pineapple (beginning in 1864) and dyers' lily.



GREEN

Vine

Historically, vine has been cultivated in all the islands since the settlement, but it was in the 17th century that it gained

more relevance for being largely exported. Vine was mainly cultivated in areas near the sea and in less exploited soils. The traditional vineyards were massively destroyed by fungi and in 1856 were replaced by the American caste Isabelle, from which the so-called “Vinho de Cheiro” began to be made in Pico Island, using grapes from vineyards planted between basalt stone walls. In 2004, the Vine Cultivation Landscape of Pico Island became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

And also...

Besides vine, other cultures inspired the use of green in the decoration of NINE DOTS, such as horsebean and bean (16th century), sugar cane (15th century), chicory (19th century), and more recently the famous tea plantations (19th century), which are the oldest tea plantations in the European Continent.



BLUE

Pastel • *Isatis tinctoria* L.

Isatis tinctoria L., or simply pastel, was introduced in the Azores by Willem Van der Haegen in 1490.

This plant was cultivated for the extraction of the blue color, from the maceration of its leaves. The pigment obtained has been used for dyeing since the antiquity. It was the main culture and the most exported product of the Archipelago between the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century, until its decline in 1680.



PURPLE

Orchil • *Rocella tinctoria*

Orchil is a lichen, that grows spontaneously on rocks, especially near the sea.

It was harvested since the settlement in all the islands. From its maceration, the purple color was obtained and, even though it was not as traded as the pastel, orchil extraction survived the pastel decline, at least until 1850, when the anilines appeared.

The Portuguese Crown held the monopoly of the orchil's trade, and therefore contraband of this product was high.



RED

Dragon tree • *Dracaena draco*

The dragon tree is a pre-historical tree and many consider it a living fossil. Its name comes from the Greek word "drakaiano", which means dragon, for it was said that its red sap was dragon blood.

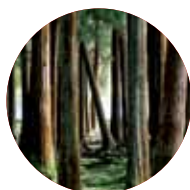
It is believed that many cave paintings were made with dragon tree sap. The ancient Greeks, Romans, and Arabs believed in its medical power and used it in magic rituals and alchemy.

For many years, the origin of this pigment was kept a secret, leading people to believe that it was actually dragon blood. For this reason, it was sold at high prices in Europe to be used in pharmaceutical products and dyeing. It was one of the most important dyeing pigments with commercial interest in the Macaronesia region, and it was used between the 15th and 19th centuries as a coloring substance and in the production of paints, dyes, seals, lacquers, and coatings.



Almagre

'Almagre' is a reddish clay soil extracted in the island of Santa Maria, very much used for plaster and painting. The "Barreiro da Faneca", located in Santa Maria, also known as the Red Desert of the Azores, is an arid and clayey land of intense reddish coloration. This geological formation originated from lava flows overlapped by layers of volcanic



ashes, which, under the action of the humid and hot climate of the Pliocene, formed reddish clays.

WOOD

As in the forest areas of the Azores, many different species of trees are present in NINE DOTS, where different types of wood were used:

- Endemic species from the Laurissilva, used in the naval industry, in civil construction, and in carpentry.
- Pine, which exists in the Archipelago since the 17th century
- Acacia, known for its versatility
- Cryptomeria, introduced in 1856 and intensified in the 1950s.



VOLCANIC STONES

Volcanic stones are all over the Azorean natural landscape and architecture. The different shades of basalt grey, ignimbrites, and trachyte, as well as their different textures and crystal combinations are present in most of the interior and exterior areas of NINE DOTS. These elements contrast with the other materials used. In the specific case of the olivine basalt, a delicate complementarity with the reflections and shine of its green olivine crystals is obtained.

AZOREAN ART AND CULTURE

ART COLLECTION

Azorean Art and Culture in their different forms

Azorean Art is the central theme of our Boutique Hotel. It is part of our mission to promote **Azorean artists, culture, traditions, and craftsmanship**, providing you an exclusive and enjoyable stay.

The Art collection of NINE DOTS includes **works of artists from the Azores and with Azorean roots**, who transcended the dimension of the Archipelago, and were able to show their works in notorious national and international **museums** and important private collections. Among the museums where their works are exhibited, we highlight The Musée d'Orsay, the Art Museum of São Paulo, The Chiado Museum, The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, The Carlos Machado Museum, MAC/CCB Museum of Contemporary Art, the Serralves Foundation and others. The exception to these artists is the ceramist and architect Karolinne Alves, who, besides being a member of NINE DOTS' team of architects, created an assembly of ceramic art works that decorate some of our walls, replicating Azorean natural elements, such as the hortensia (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) in black ceramic and other pieces with textures obtained from regional handcraft, such as laces from Pico Island.

Paintings, sculptures, a collection of books, manuscripts and historical documents, as well as unique pieces of local handcraft can be admired in many spaces of the hotel, including the reception, corridors, lounges, and even in some rooms.

Know more about our collections, artists, and exhibitions.





EXHIBITIONS AND PROMOTION OF LOCAL ARTISTS

Besides the artwork in permanent exhibition, we intend to enrich our collection with the promotion of temporary exhibitions and partnerships with local artists.

Supporting artists and art projects has always been one of the main purposes of our project. Thus, we also receive **temporary residences** in NINE DOTS, supporting not only well-known artists, but also new names within the cultural panorama of the Azores. This is, for us, a way to connect and create synergies between the past and the present, in the multiple forms of the Azorean art and culture.

BE AMAZED
FEEL ADVENTUROUS
FIND INSPIRATION
& GO BEYOND

['Go Beyond']

To do more than what is expected or required; To be more than or not to be limited to something.

The Go Beyond program emphasizes a relationship of **valorization and respect** for the natural resources of our planet, for the local community, and for the cultural heritage.

Being fully aware of the various effects associated with the hotel industry and tourism, NINE DOTS takes on the will and commitment to take concrete actions with **positive environmental, social, and cultural impact**.

During the construction phase, we followed a commitment to employ local labor, turning to those who were most skilled in the construction art. Materials and decorative elements were sought first within the islands. Learn more about our main action pillars, as well as the projects with which NINE DOTS continuously collaborates.

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["Go Beyond"]

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MÃOS QUE CRIAM

"Mãos Que Criam" is a productive occupational project, located in the S. João de Deus Institute - São Miguel Health Center, for individuals with mental health disorders and/ or issues related to addictive behaviors.

Through artistic expression, creativity, and production systemization, this program promotes the development of personal, social, and relational skills, contributing to the reintegration of its members into the community.

When speaking about sustainability, we are also talking about social responsibility and generating a positive impact on society. It was within this framework that the collaboration between NINE DOTS and the Mãos Que Criam project was born.

Each piece of ceramic at *ETC. Osteria Bar* was handmade by the members and collaborators of the Mãos Que Criam project, who transform clay into unique pieces.

The creation process is divided in various phases and tasks, ensuring that all participants are included according to their skills, abilities, and motivation.

This way, from the stamping to the glazing, all work is valued and recognized, and contributes to a final piece that is unique and meaningful.



If you wish to purchase a piece produced by Mãos Que Criam, you can do so at the reception of NINE DOTS.



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['Go Beyond']

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

'MESTRE PAIVINHA'

With a simple and elegant design, the chairs at *ETC.* Osteria Bar are part of a traditional line of furniture from São Miguel, known as 'Cadeiras das Furnas', contributing to the preservation of the Azorean cultural identity.

In Povoação, in the idyllic Vale das Furnas, lives the craftsman who creates these chairs - António José Carreiro, known as 'Mestre Paivinha'. A lifelong artisan, he belongs to the third generation of a family of craftsmen and is now passing on the knowledge of his craft and traditional techniques to his son Paulo.

In the hands of 'Mestre Paivinha', carrying on one of the traditional craftsmanship legacies, acacia wood, one of the species found in the forest landscape of the Azores, is worked from its raw state until the transformation into chairs of great simplicity and beauty.



LUÍS CAETANO

At *ETC. Bar*, you will find nine tables crafted by this self-taught craftsman, designed specifically for this space. These tables feature stands made from reused basalt stone slabs from the original building, with tops crafted from regional acacia wood.

In addition to producing items in basalt, ignimbrite, and other stones from the region, Luís Caetano works exclusively with woods found in the Azorean Forest, such as *Cryptomeria* (*Cryptomeria japonica*), *Acacia* (*Acacia melanoxydon*), and Regional Pine (*Pinus pinaster*).

At *NINE DOTS Wellness Center*, the support tables are made from a single *Cryptomeria* trunk that washed ashore and was transformed using the Japanese technique of “*Sugi Ban*,” which involves charring the wood to improve its durability and resistance.

The pieces created by this artist are handmade in his studio in Ponta Delgada, ensuring that no two pieces are alike.



OFICINA 26

Oficina 26 was founded by master craftsman José Luís Silva, who dedicated his entire life to his passion for woodworking and carpentry, collaborating with major construction companies.

His son, Bruno, joined his father in 2020, bringing youthfulness, energy, and a pulsating desire for innovation. In the hotel, you will find pieces that came to life through the hands of this father and son team, using woods such as Oak, Kambala, and Cryptomeria.

ETC. Osteria Bar stands as a testimony of their craftsmanship, showcasing the wooden tables and elegant stools produced by their workshop.

Similarly, the Reading Corner reveals the meticulous care and extreme dedication of Oficina 26, a place where wood is the expression of a legacy linked by intrinsic knowledge and a contemporary vision.



VIEIRA CERAMIC FACTORY

The Vieira Ceramic Factory is one of the oldest ceramic factories in the Azores. Its origins date back to the 19th century, having remained in the same family ever since. The current owner, António José Vieira, belongs to the fourth generation of the family and collaborates with his three daughters.

With characteristic designs predominantly featuring the color blue, the renowned “Louça da Lagoa” is produced through artisanal processes, from modeling to painting and firing in the kiln.

Here, in this landmark of the Lagoa municipality, the tile panel for *ETC. Osteria Bar*, designed by the architecture team at NINE DOTS, was produced. It is a contemporary piece, created specifically for this space and handmade by the artisans at Vieira Ceramic Factory, honoring and bringing to the present day the history and traditions that have endured since the factory's early days.



ÂNGELO VALÉRIO

The collection of approximately 80 paintings that make up the hotel's core collection has been meticulously treated and framed by Ângelo Valério, a local experienced artisan, who has collaborated with various galleries and museums in the Azores for several years.

In addition to framing the artworks, his creations also include some furniture pieces and the boxes that frame the televisions in the rooms.



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['Go Beyond']

RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MUSA AZORES

The MUSA AZORES project aims to harness the sustainable and socially inclusive use of an important resource abundant in the Azores - the banana plant, species *Musa* - through the creation of artisanal pieces and the promotion of experiences centered around it.

According to statistical data from the SREA - Regional Statistics Service of the Azores (2019) ¹, in 2018, the Azores produced around 5053 tons of bananas, representing 22% of the national banana production.

Each ton of bananas generates about 4 tons of waste, since banana plants cannot be used for a second harvest, thus becoming biomass residue. The need to promote greater sustainability in the use of this resource has become a growing concern for the promoters of the MUSA AZORES project, António Braga and Vanessa Melo.

To the quest for sustainability, they added the desire and opportunity to promote local traditions and cultures, often involving vulnerable local communities in the conversion of this waste into artisanal or manufactured pieces, promoting social inclusion and socioeconomic development.



¹ SREA - Serviço Regional de Estatística dos Açores (*Azores Regional Statistics Service*). SRFPAP - Secretaria Regional das Finanças, Planeamento e Administração Pública (*Regional Department of Finance, Planning and Public Administration*). *Os Açores em Números*. Angra do Heroísmo, 2019.



Using various transformation techniques, the dried fibers of the banana stem and leaves are interwoven to create different decorative and utility pieces. In your room you can find one of these extraordinary creations - the small fruit basket that was born from the use of what was once waste to give it a new life, representing a healthy, simple, and respectful relationship with nature.

If you wish to purchase a piece produced by MUSA AZORES, you can do so at the reception of NINE DOTS.

ZOURI VEGAN SHOES

Zouri is a Portuguese eco-vegan footwear brand that utilizes plastic waste from the Portuguese coast along with ecological and sustainable materials.

Each pair of shoes reuses the equivalent to 8 plastic bottles from the ocean, with 80% of the plastic waste collected coming from fishing activities.

Together with over 600 volunteers from local institutions, non-governmental organizations, and schools, Zouri managed to remove over one ton of plastic from Portuguese beaches, giving it a new purpose.

At NINE DOTS, we wear the values we believe in. Our employees wear Zouri footwear, handcrafted ethically and fairly in Portugal.

Additionally, we regularly organize beach clean-up actions in São Miguel, sending the plastic we find to Zouri to be reused.

Every day, and with every step, we honor the noble mission of protecting the oceans.



If you wish to purchase footwear produced by Zouri, please visit the website www.zouri-shoes.com



NINE DOTS team
removing plastic waste
at Milícias Beach (São Roque)



ELECTRIC VEHICLE

In vehicles with combustion engines, in addition to the well-known carbon dioxide (CO₂), various atmospheric pollutants are emitted, including carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, among others, which damage the ozone layer and contribute to global warming.

Honoring our commitment and responsibility towards carbon neutrality, NINE DOTS owns a 100% electric vehicle, a responsible alternative, free of pollution and noise.

PLASTIC REDUCTION

According to the report "Plastics, the circular economy and Europe's environment- A priority for action", prepared by the European Environment Agency², greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastic production in the EU are responsible for 13.4 million tons of CO₂, the equivalent to c. 20% of emissions from the chemical industry in the EU. Additionally, most plastics, often used in a disposable manner, have been accumulating, in landfills and in our oceans.

NINE DOTS is committed to minimizing the use of disposable plastic products and contributing to their recycling whenever possible. We rely on our guests to assist us in this mission.

² European Environment Agency. Plastics, the circular economy and Europe's environment – A priority for action. Report No 18/2020. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021.

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['Go Beyond']

LOCAL PRODUCTS

At *ETC. Osteria Bar*, we strive to primarily use local products, benefiting from the agricultural richness of the island and, simultaneously, offering fresh, authentic, and high-quality food. In doing so, we not only contribute to the local economy but also reduce the environmental footprint associated with the transportation of food from different regions.





From the welcoming spaces
to the Azorean art surrounding us,
every moment at NINE DOTS is an opportunity
to connect with the essence of the Azores.

Thank you for choosing us as your destination
and for allowing us to be part of your memories.

Enjoy the tranquility, natural beauty
and our warm hospitality.

ninedotsazores.com