



NEWSLETTER

December, 2016

The month of December is completely dominated by the Christmas celebrations, which take over the main points in the city of Funchal.

The hubbub of Christmas shopping, Christmas music and the party spirit make up the main preparations for the real apotheosis that comes along with the New Year!



Lots of fun during the New Year celebrations 1st of December, 2016 to 8th of January, 2017

Christmas traditions are deeply ingrained in the habits of the Madeiran people and they combine with the joyful New Year celebrations to transform Madeira into one big party!

This year's programme is rich in plenty of cultural, traditional, and artistic events. It begins on December 1st, when the illuminations were turned on in the streets of Funchal and will last right through until January 8th, including Twelfth Night.

Funchal's downtown streets are decked with lights of all sizes and colours and the squares are decorated with flowers. The city is full of the bustle of Christmas shoppers and carols permeate the streets as if by magic, charming visitors and helping to make Funchal a real life-size Nativity scene.

Here and there around the city, there are performances by folklore groups and philharmonic bands and a variety of Christmas exhibitions, some of which are living pictures of age-old Madeiran traditions.

After Christmas, the fun continues as everyone waits with bated breath for the high point of Madeira's New Year Celebrations, the fireworks! This pyrotechnic extravaganza is absolutely magnificent. 250,000 coloured lights adorn the Funchal amphitheatre, transforming it into a huge Nativity scene. And when the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, the skies light up with fire, colour and hope for the coming year, which could not get off to a better start.



V Madeira Micro International Film Festival 7th to 10th of December

The 5th edition of Madeira Micro International Film Festival will take place at the ancient Cine Sol building, located in the village of Ponta do Sol.

This cinematographic festival, held in partnership with other organizations, such as the Estalagem da Ponta do Sol and the European cultural marketing company Digital Berlin, will also include some workshops.

More information at: www.mmiff.com



Madeira Plunge 1 de janeiro, 2017

The first event of the year will take place at noon, at Ponta Gorda Bathing Complex, also known as "Poças do Governador".

The first plunge of the year is a tradition rooted in some cities of the country and the World, but it will take place for the third time in Madeira. The initiative aims to create an event that brings together locals and tourists who wish to be part of the ritual, with the condition of bringing a xmas hat.

If you wish to join this New Year celebration, and you are in good health, register in the following website:

<http://www.madeiraplunge.com/register.html>



Madeira wins the World Travel Award

For the second time, Madeira Island won the World Travel Awards prize and became the World Leading Island Destination 2016.

Despite the existing competition from islands destinations such as Bali, Barbados, Crete, the Cook Islands, Jamaica, the Maldives, Mauritius, St. Lucia, Sardinia, the Seychelles, Sicily and Zanzibar, Madeira Islands was able to win the award which, on yearly basis, recognizes the excellence and outstanding brands and locations in the tourism industry, from all over the world.

The "tourism Oscars" were given in a ceremony held on the evening of the 2nd of December, at the Maldives Islands.



***Il Gallo d'Oro* restaurant receives 2 Michelin stars**

Il Gallo d'Oro restaurant was awarded with 2 stars by the Michelin Guide, the most prestigious restaurant guide in the world.

The distinction was revealed in Gerona during the presentation of the guide's 2017 edition for Spain and Portugal; the book has singled out 21 Portuguese restaurants.

The gourmet restaurant led by French *chef* Benoît Sinthonm, presents his signature with a refined aromatic cuisine with Mediterranean and Iberian inspiration, in which fresh products from Madeira play a key role in combination with high quality ingredients from various other regions of the Iberian Peninsula.

The Michelin Guide awarded a star to *Il Gallo d'Oro* for the first time in

2009.



Restaurant „William“ wins a Michelin star

For the first time, the restaurant „William“, located at the Belmond Reid's Palace Hotel, was distinguished with the Michelin Guide star, the most prestigious restaurant guide in the world.

The 2017 edition places this restaurant among 21 Portuguese haut cuisine establishments awarded with the star.

The gourmet restaurant led by a Madeira *chef*, Luis Pestana and supervised by *chef* Joachim Koerper, is awarded for the first time, becoming the second Madeiran restaurant receiving such honour.