



It is time to say farewell to the "Festa" – *the festivity* – which will be greatly missed. It's time to "clean up the closets" and make way to new projects for another year that begins. With joyfulness and, above all, hope!



**Santo Amaro Feast  
January 15th**

Did you know that in the 15<sup>th</sup> of January the people of Madeira celebrate Saint Amaro and dedicate this time of the year to "sweep the closets"? This popular tradition marks the ending of the Christmas Season in Madeira, occasion on which families dissemble the cribs and all Christmas decorations, sharing and tasting the last remaining delicacies. Santa Cruz municipality earmarks the anniversary in homage to its patron saint, through the implementation of a lively popular festivity – the "arraial" – in that city.



**Funchal's Marathon  
January 29th**

The Madeira Athletics Association (AARAM) promotes this major international sporting event. This sports event consists of three main races, the Funchal Marathon (42.195,00 meters), the Funchal Half Marathon (21.097,50 meters) and the Mini marathon (5.900 meters). This race will once again be run on a flat course, almost entirely on a closed, attractively landscaped circuit, offering the perfect setting for healthy competition between athletes from different nationalities.



**Popular festivities: the "arraiais"**

The "arraiais" are popular festivities, usually of religious nature, decorated with countless lights and flowers, and animated by folk groups, brass bands and local music groups or from mainland. "Despiques", a kind of improvised folk singing arguments, are frequent between the pilgrims who come to pay promises to their patron saints. In these festivities you will have the chance to eat a skewered beef in a laurel stick, accompanied by typical bread (bolo do caco) and regional dry wine ("vinho seco") or beer with gasefied orange juice. The most common festivities are Our Lady of Monte (Funchal), Our Lady of Loreto (Calheta), Our Lord of Miracles (Machico), Our Lady of Grace (Calheta), Our Lady of Health (Lameiros), The Holy Sacrament (São Vicente) and The Good Jesus (Ponta Delgada).

In the island of Porto Santo this kind of festivities exists as well, lived with some intensity, highlighting the most important, which are Saint John's and Our Lady of Grace. Come and join one of our "arraiais" and get to know the soul of Madeira!



### **Madeira and Switzerland connected by new flight**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, easyJet airline began providing one flight to Madeira from Basel, thereby strengthening its position on the regional market.

The new connection from Switzerland will be operated once a week, on Tuesdays, and it is envisaged that over 15,000 seats will be available until September 2017.

In order to welcome the initial flight, Madeira's international airport offered cake, Madeira wine and flowers to passengers arriving in Funchal.