

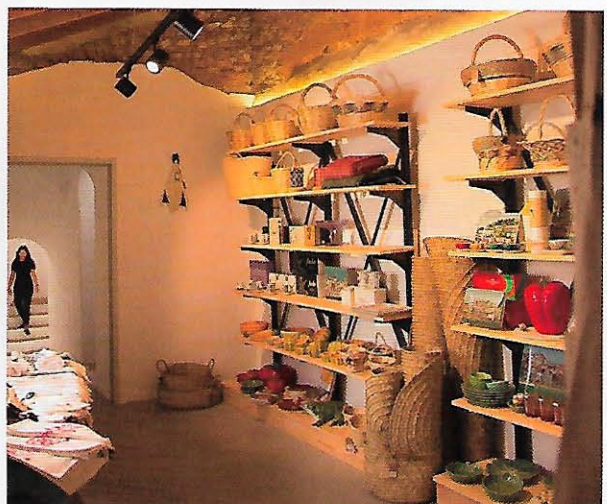
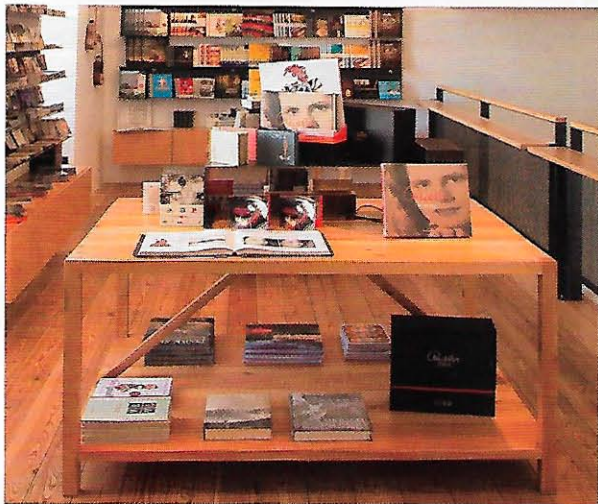
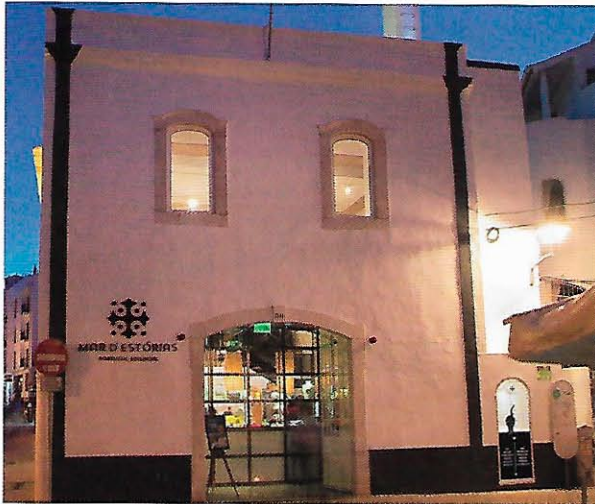
SEA OF STORIES

MAR D'ESTÓRIAS IS A TESTAMENT TO LAGOS' HISTORY AND PORTUGAL'S BEST HANDCRAFTED PRODUCTS

It may only have opened in June, but it already has plenty of stories to tell. Named Mar d'Estórias (sea of stories), one of Lagos' latest projects brings together some of Portugal's best handcrafted products, regional gastronomy and ancient traditions, right in the city centre, in a beautiful 18th-century building located on Rua Silva Lopes.

Founded by local businessman Luís Ledo, the man behind real estate agency Casas do Barlavento, and Célia Real, who left Lisbon for Sagres eight years ago, Mar d'Estórias is a café and bistro serving traditional Algarve-style tapas (courtesy of chef Megan Melling), a shop selling beautiful Portuguese homeware, books, records and gourmet treats, as well as a gallery and rooftop terrace offering beautiful sea views.

“Both Célia and Luís had the vision to create a different shop and promote the best in Portuguese craftsmanship, but their challenge was to find the right space for it,” explains Margarida Pimenta, the project's content creator and PR. The entrepreneurial duo found the right location in the heart of the city's historic centre, in an ancient building steeped in history, which was once a church, a meeting point for the local fishing community and even the headquarters of Lagos fire brigade for more than 50 years, among other uses.





Beautifully renovated by well-known local architect Mário Martins, who used natural materials such as iron, stone and wood to bring new life to the historic building, Mar d'Estórias is the perfect spot to treat yourself to a delicious cheese and sausage board, drink a refreshing glass of local wine, and take home a well-curated selection of products by iconic national brands, such as Bordallo Pinheiro, Vista Alegre and Castelbel.

Undoubtedly one of Lagos' most impressive shops, the space develops over two floors – the ground floor houses the gourmet and wine shop, whilst the homeware, music albums and books are sold upstairs on an elegant mezzanine, where we also find the bistro and café. Created almost like a “labyrinth”, in which people come in one way and are guided towards the rooftop terrace, Mar d'Estórias also aims to become a cultural and gastronomic hub. This will be achieved with the help of the shop's very own gallery, a multifunctional space serving as an exhibition space during the day – now welcoming the photography work of Sara Navarro -, and as a dining room for private themed dinners for up to 16 people by night. “These will be based on three subjects: sea, land and the Algarve,” says Margarida Pimenta. More than enough reasons to listen to the stories this shop has to tell.

Mar d'Estórias is open every day from 10.00 am to midnight. www.mardestorias.com