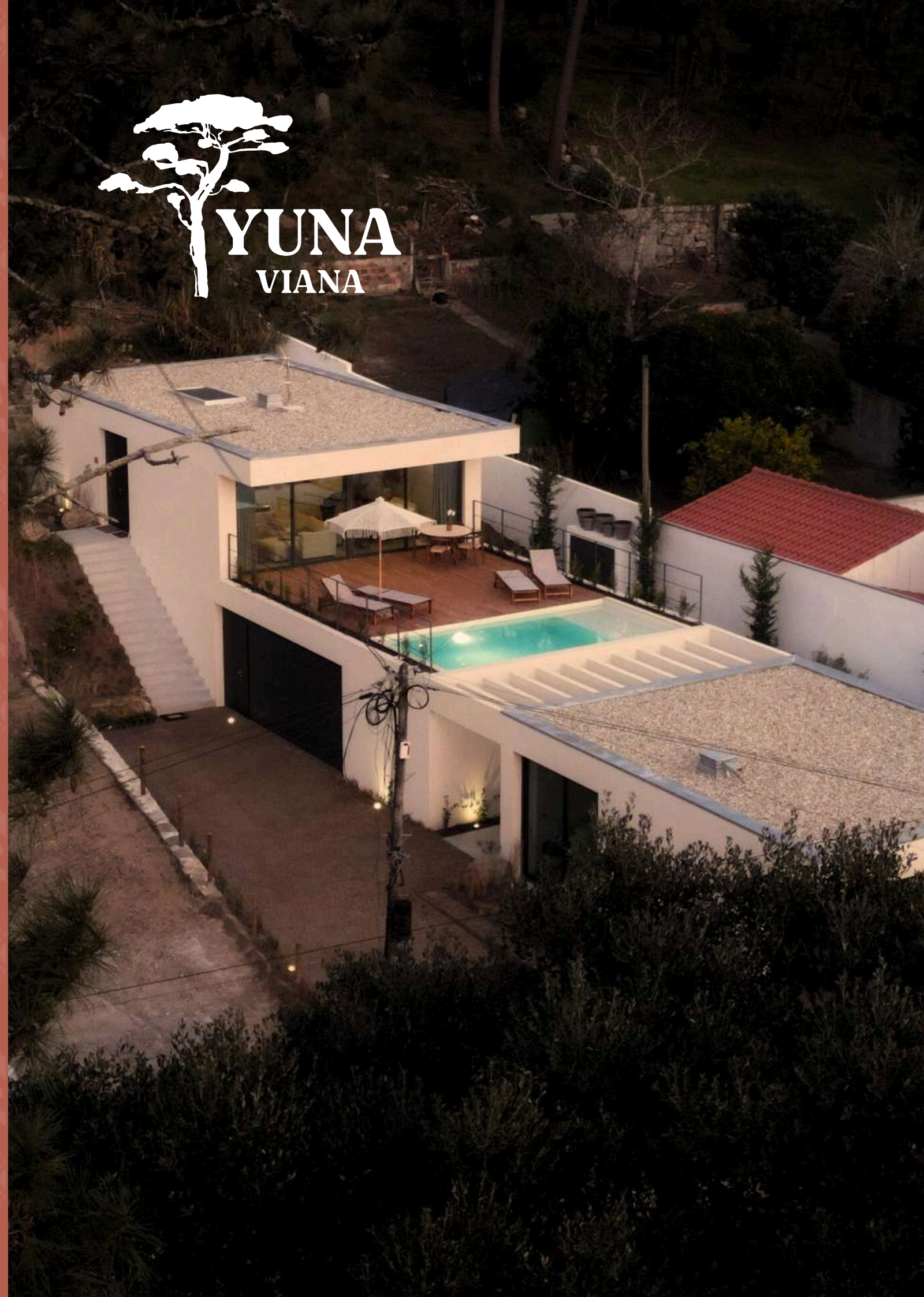




 YUNAVIANA.COM  [@VISIT_YUNA](https://www.instagram.com/VISIT_YUNA)





We are Angelique and Dirk, a couple from Haarlem, the Netherlands. A few years ago, during a trip through Portugal, we stumbled upon Viana do Castelo, and something clicked. The ocean, the mountains, the wind, the food, the people; it felt like the perfect mix of everything we love.

After spending a few months each year in Viana for nearly three years, we knew we wanted something more permanent.

But most houses we found lacked the comfort we needed to truly feel at home.

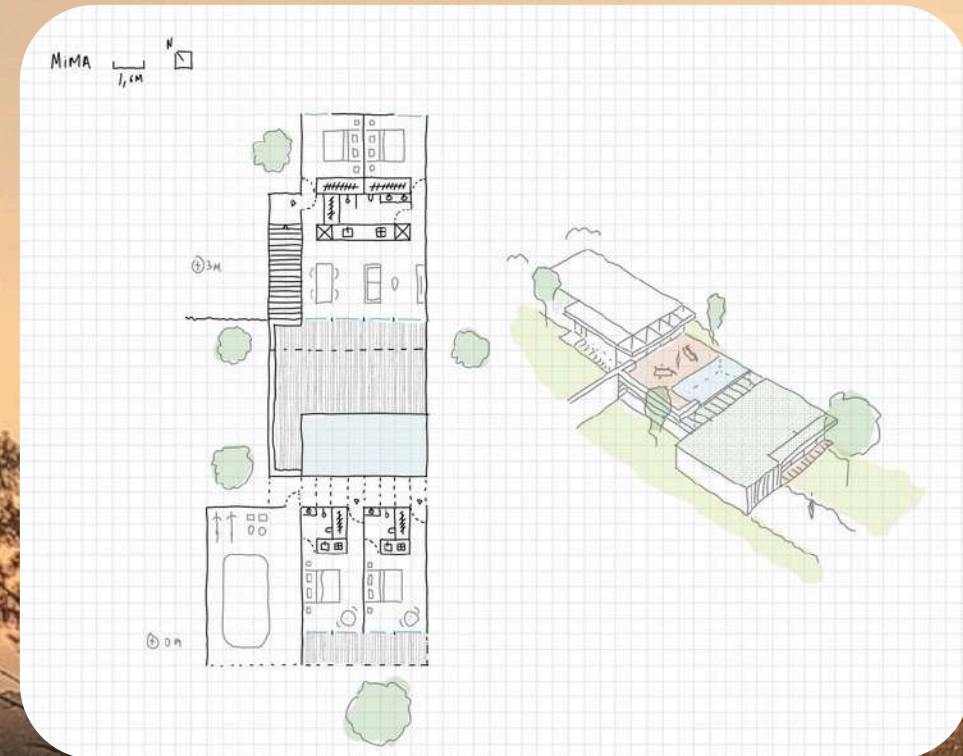
Our journey to Viana do Castelo



We were not planning to build a house

But after seeing more than 40 plots of land, we found one that changed everything: a wild hillside with two sheep and one orange tree, and a view that stole our breath. We pictured where the terrace could go, and imagined how the light would move through the day. It was raw and rugged and absolutely right.

We had no experience in construction, but we had a clear vision of what we wanted our home to feel like. Very early in the process, we discovered a local architecture studio whose philosophy felt like an echo of our own: large windows to bring in the light, natural materials that age beautifully, and spaces that feel warm, calm, and practical — never oversized just for the sake of it. What followed was an intense and creative journey.



That's when the idea of Yuna was born

Shaping Yuna

For months, we met almost every week, sketching, questioning, changing, and fine-tuning every line and angle until it felt like it truly belonged to us. Some days the ideas flowed easily; other days we went back to the drawing board completely.

And as our own lives shifted — work, dreams, and plans, so did the design. What started as an idea on paper slowly became something deeply personal, shaped as much by our conversations and compromises as by bricks and concrete. It became not just a house, but a reflection of who we were becoming





What we didn't expect was how extreme building on a mountain would be. You don't just dig — you blast with dynamite!

Watching the hillside being carved open was surreal. But slowly, the idea turned into stone, wood, and walls.



‘Even our neighbor helped plaster the walls’

Many local hands helped shape this place

Extra-long beds (because Dirk is 2 meters tall), a high kitchen, a good outdoor shower, and plenty of quiet spots to watch the sun go down with a glass of wine after a long day of kitesurfing or hiking. We wanted to build something we didn't need a break from. Something real. And because we believe good things take time — and love — we didn't rush a single detail. Many local hands helped shape this place.

Even our neighbor helped plaster the walls. That meant everything to us. We never wanted to be the kind of expats who build walls — literally or figuratively — between themselves and the people who live here. We wanted to be part of the rhythm of the village. Live like locals. Just with a bit more comfort.

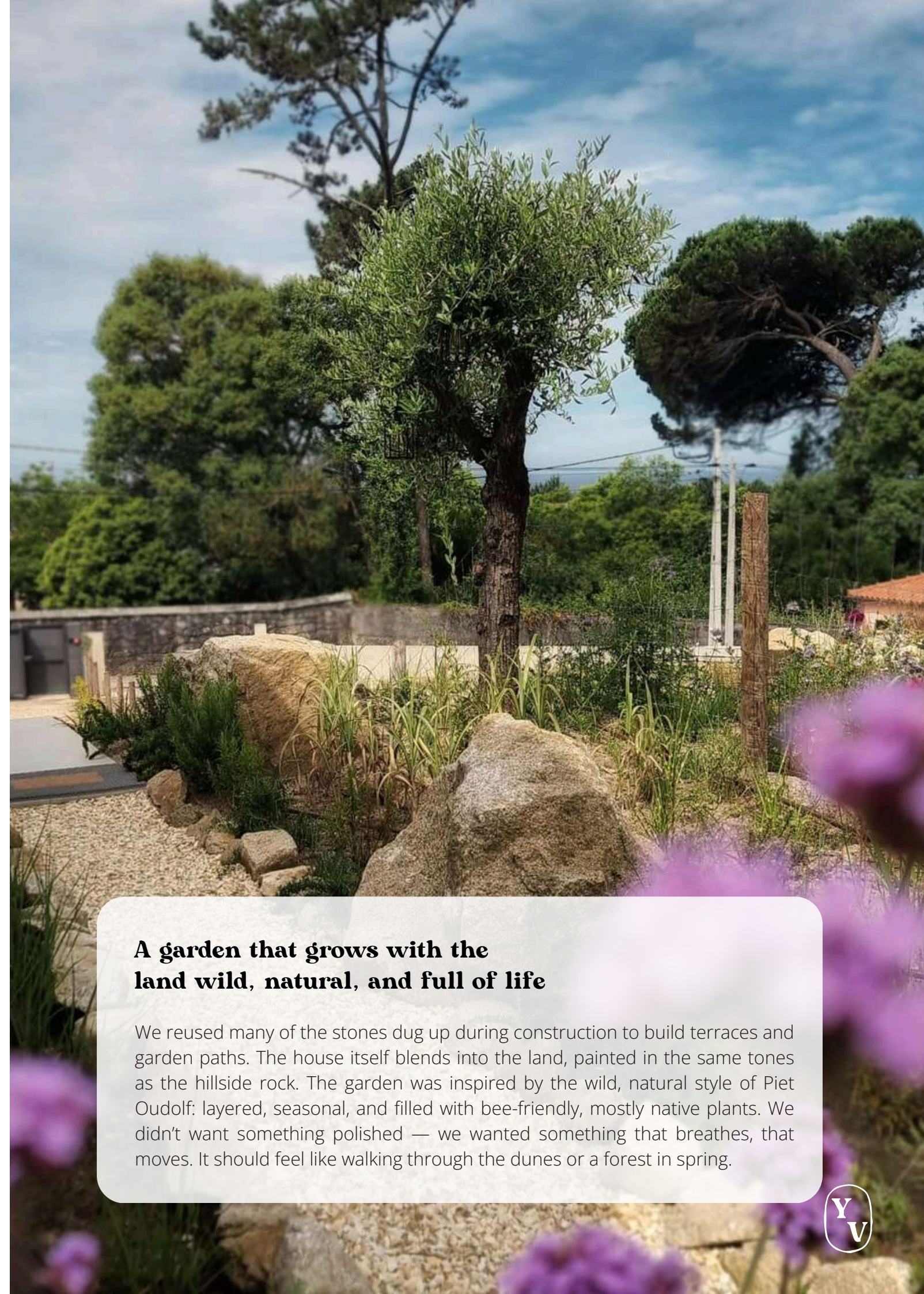
In October 2024, Yuna was finally finished. Well, sort of....





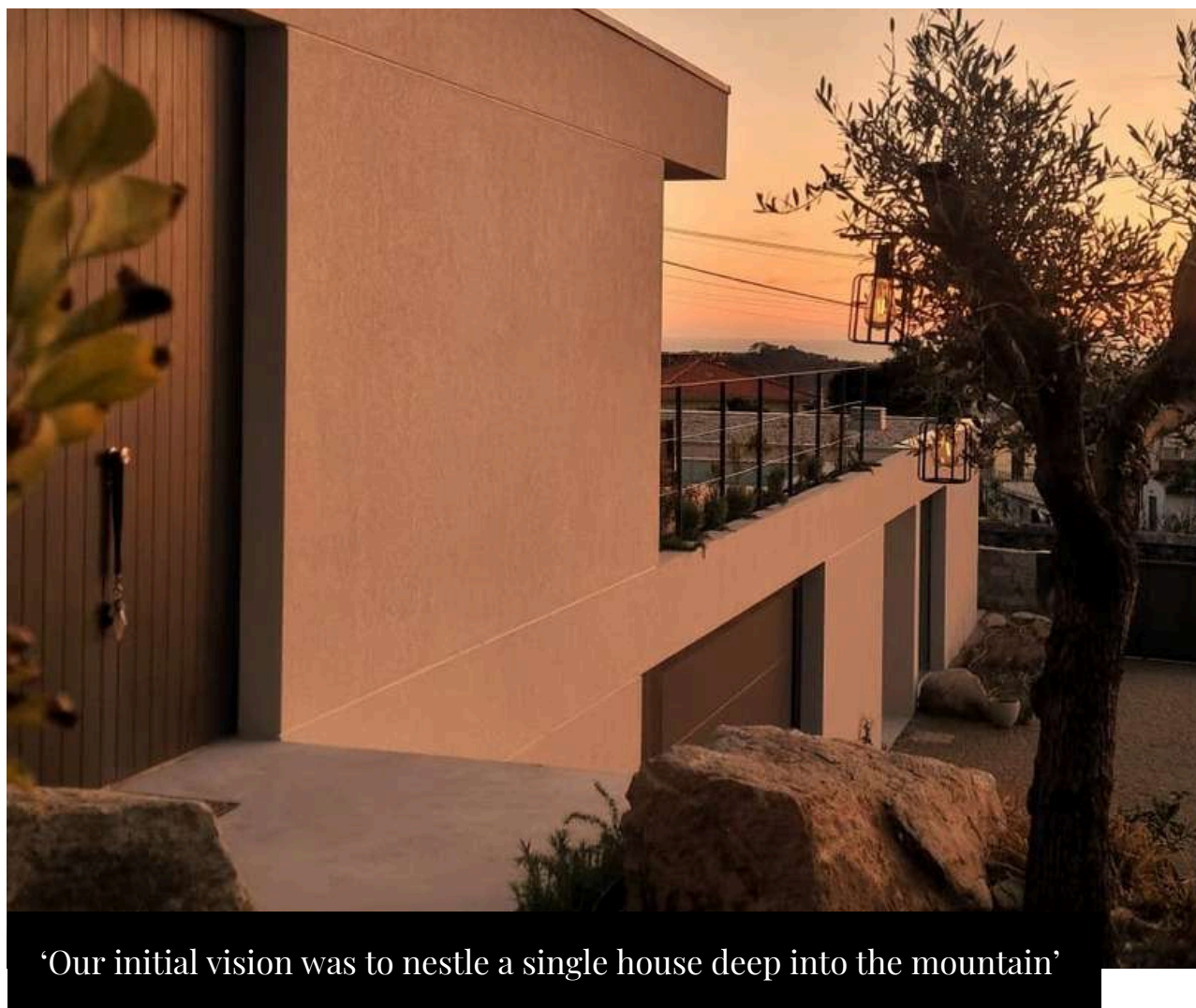
Planting roots and tightening screws till the last minute

Our savings were gone, and we still had to put together half the furniture with an Allen key. We hauled 2,000 kilos of gravel, planted over 1,500 trees and plants, and spent another five months working full-time on Yuna — while also juggling our actual full-time jobs. Even on the last day, we were tightening screws and painting corners just before our first guests arrived.



A garden that grows with the land wild, natural, and full of life

We reused many of the stones dug up during construction to build terraces and garden paths. The house itself blends into the land, painted in the same tones as the hillside rock. The garden was inspired by the wild, natural style of Piet Oudolf: layered, seasonal, and filled with bee-friendly, mostly native plants. We didn't want something polished — we wanted something that breathes, that moves. It should feel like walking through the dunes or a forest in spring.



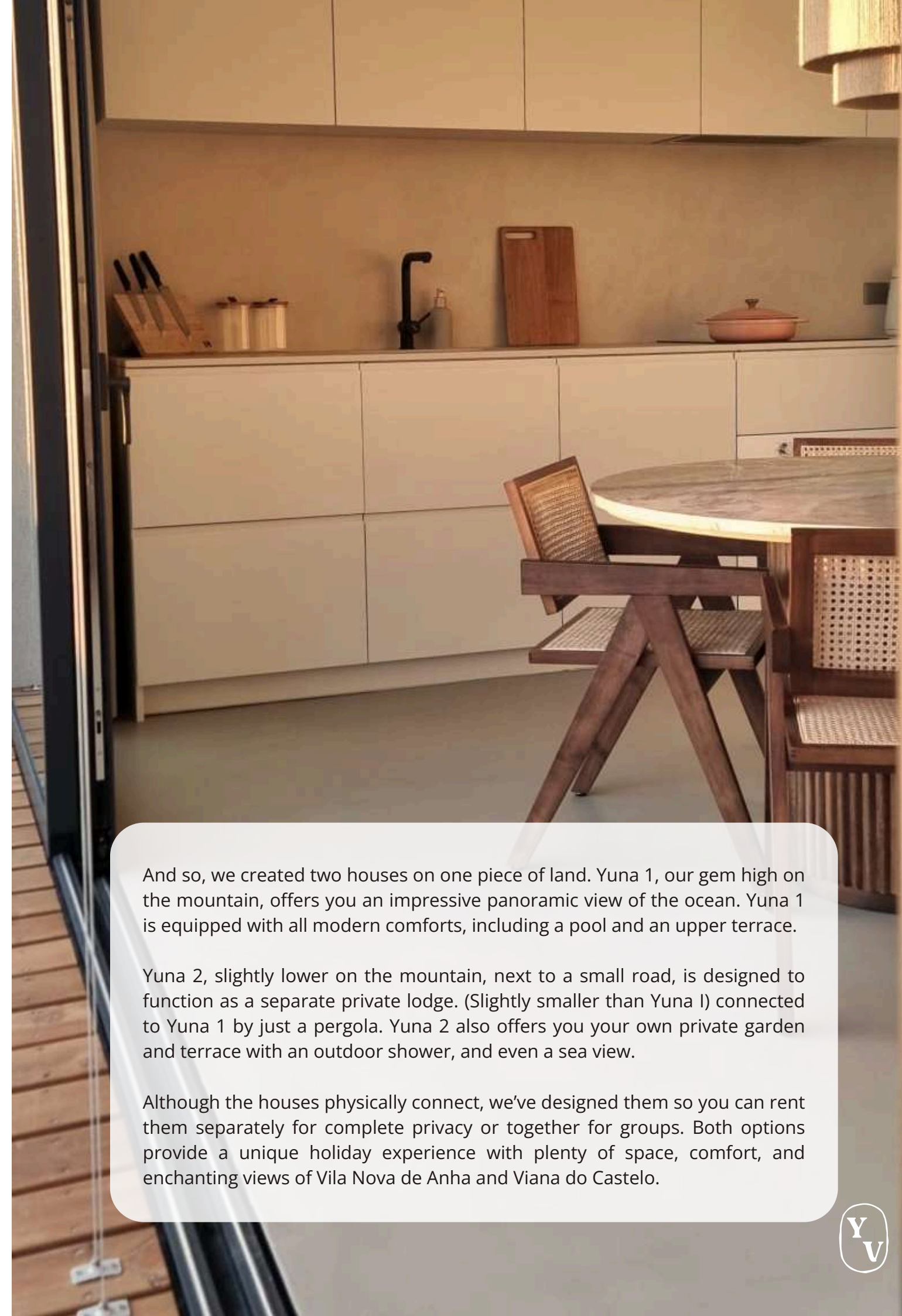
‘Our initial vision was to nestle a single house deep into the mountain’

What’s up with Yuna 1 and 2? Are they two separate houses?

Indeed, that’s right! We have two Yuna’s! Each with its unique charm, Yuna 1 is slightly larger and situated a bit higher on the mountain, while Yuna 2 is tucked cosily just a touch lower, in front of Yuna 1.

You can decide to rent either one separately or both together, entirely based on your needs and the size of your group or the amount of space you desire during your stay at Yuna.

Our initial vision was to nestle a single house deep into the landscape, taking full advantage of the highest peaks for optimal sea views. The higher up the mountainside you go, the better the sea view. However, local regulations required that the house be built directly on the road. So, to comply with municipal requirements while still realising our dream home, we came up with the idea for Yuna 1 and Yuna 2.



And so, we created two houses on one piece of land. Yuna 1, our gem high on the mountain, offers you an impressive panoramic view of the ocean. Yuna 1 is equipped with all modern comforts, including a pool and an upper terrace.

Yuna 2, slightly lower on the mountain, next to a small road, is designed to function as a separate private lodge. (Slightly smaller than Yuna 1) connected to Yuna 1 by just a pergola. Yuna 2 also offers you your own private garden and terrace with an outdoor shower, and even a sea view.

Although the houses physically connect, we’ve designed them so you can rent them separately for complete privacy or together for groups. Both options provide a unique holiday experience with plenty of space, comfort, and enchanting views of Vila Nova de Anha and Viana do Castelo.



It started with a view, then we made it home.

Some of the best moments at Yuna are quiet ones. In winter, the sun sets directly in front of the terrace and fills the sky with impossible colors. In summer, two owls call to each other in the fading light. In spring, the scent of fruit blossoms fills the garden.

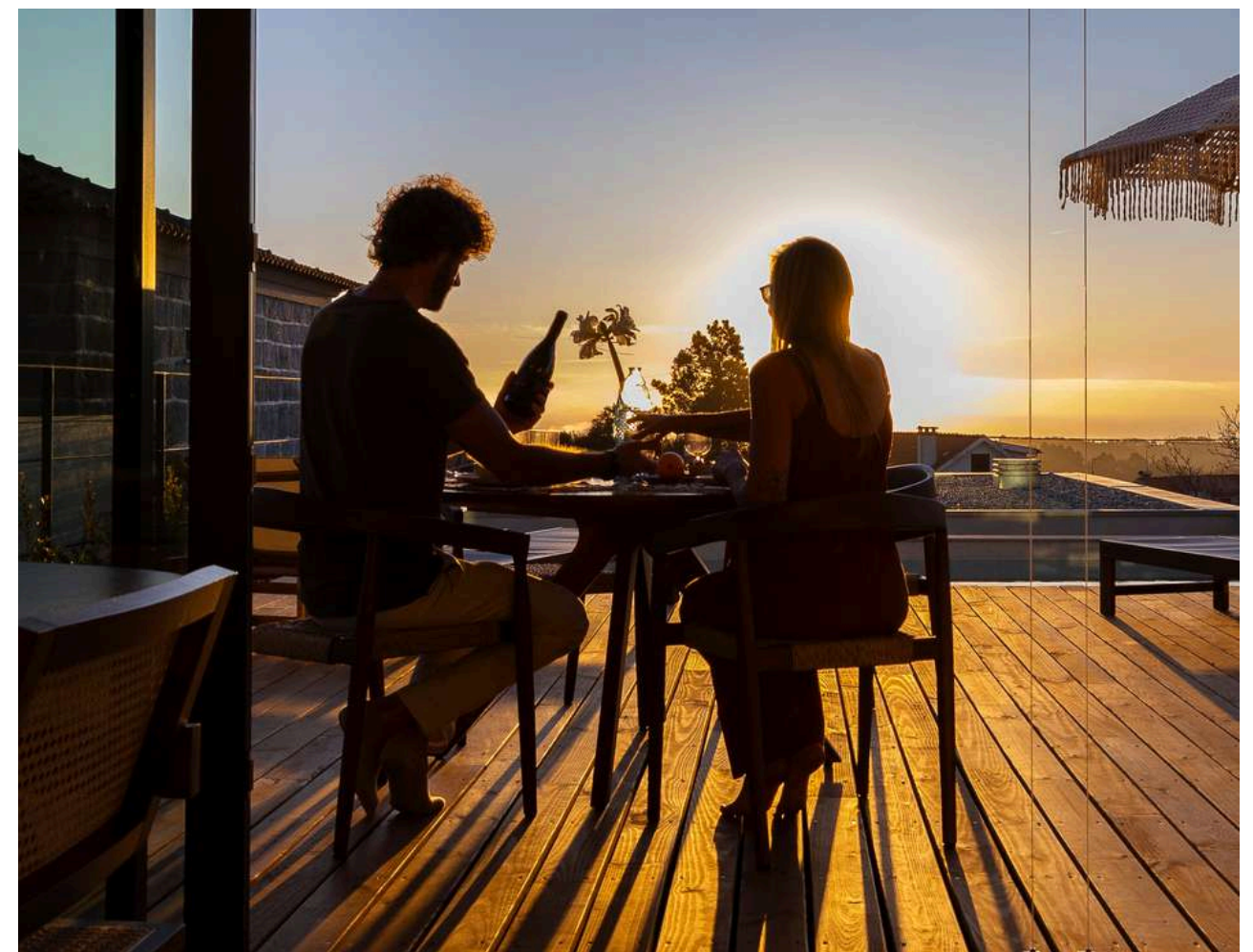
These are the moments we built Yuna for. Not big, showy gestures — but the quiet sense of being in the right place, at the right time. We've learned that only patience leads to something truly worthwhile.

That trust — in each other, in the process, in the people you work with, is everything.

And that you can build something beautiful even if you don't know how to start. You just need to say it out loud. And begin.

Oh and the name Yuna?
It's a Japanese word that can mean "gentle," "kind," or "to bind together."

We liked that.
It fits.



Viana do Castelo

Nestled at the mouth of the Lima River with around 85,800 inhabitants, Viana do Castelo blends riverside charm, coastal breeze, and architectural beauty with a vibrant local spirit.

The Sanctuary of Santa Luzia, perched atop Monte de Santa Luzia, is an iconic landmark. Built between 1904 and 1959 in a striking Romanesque-Byzantine style, it features soaring domes, huge rose windows, the second-largest in Europe, and an elevator to a panoramic vista acclaimed by National Geographic.

The city's name itself is a romantic legend: a boatman on the Lima fell for a beautiful maiden named Ana in the castle. He would shout, "Vi a Ana do Castelo!" ("I saw Ana of the castle!"), over and over, and so Viana got its name.

Apart from its sweeping views and legends, Viana shines in architecture and craftsmanship. Wander its medieval squares, marvel at the Eiffel-designed bridge, and admire Manueline mansions and the 400-seat Teatro Sá de Miranda, one of Portugal's oldest theatres.

Don't miss its renowned filigree jewelry, especially the delicate "Viana hearts" in gold, a tradition dating back centuries and cherished worldwide.

Each August, the city bursts into color with the Festa de Nossa Senhora da Agonia. Its processions of fisher boats, golden-adorned tradicionais and vibrant street festivals are a highlight of Portuguese culture.



Duotone Pro Center

A perfect spot to take a break after kitesurfing or just to soak up the vibe. Enjoy lunch on the sheltered terrace out of the wind, or head up to the rooftop for sweeping views over Viana and the ocean. And now there's even more reason to visit: their brand-new beach club right on the sand. Great food, and the best place for a sangria with a sea breeze.

Our foodtips

Here are the best ways to explore the entire city

Discover our favourite places to eat around Viana: small family-run spots, breezy beach terraces and riverside gems.

Aquario



Quality lunch and dinner near the beach. Tasty dishes, nice terrace, laid-back feel.

Duotone Pro Center



Perfect spot for lunch. New beach terrace and sheltered seating among the dunes.

Brejuinha



Walk from Yuna for lunch or rent a BBQ. Often live music and laid-back parties.

Botts no Rio



By the Lima river near the city beach, run by Brazilians known for their amazing food.

Viana Aromaticas

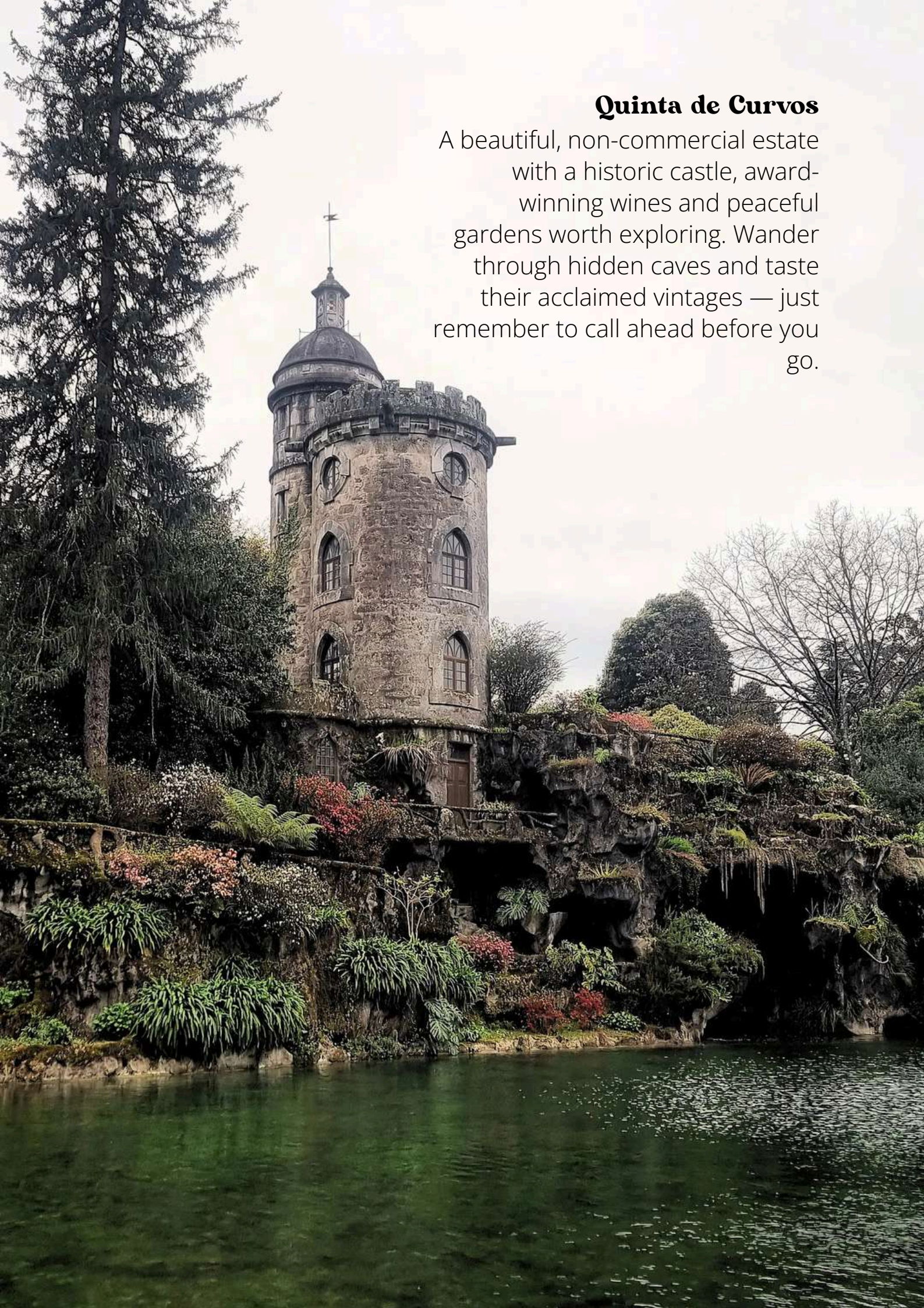


Tiny local spot run by a Portuguese couple. One daily dish, great home cooking and real local vibe.

Pico Pico



By Viana's city park, run by a Brazilian family. Warm welcome and delicious homemade dishes.



Quinta de Curvos

A beautiful, non-commercial estate with a historic castle, award-winning wines and peaceful gardens worth exploring. Wander through hidden caves and taste their acclaimed vintages — just remember to call ahead before you go.

Bites, Sips and Local Secrets

Explore more local favorites that bring unique flavors and unforgettable experiences to your stay in Viana do Castelo. From hidden gems to vibrant hotspots, there's something for every taste and mood.

Luma Brunch



The name says it all: perfect for lunch and brunch, from fresh salads to tasty sandwiches.

Vieiras



Every Friday night, pintxos at the bar, great for drinks, cocktails, or a weekend lunch.

Peloton Cafe



A trendy bike café with great lunch options, often hosting road cycling events.

O Tasco Regional



Small tapas bar with seafood, local bites, and a cozy atmosphere.

Tasquinha da Linda



Seafood restaurant in Viana's harbor, serving the freshest fish with a Michelin star.

Pattaya thai



Done with Portuguese food? Visit the Thai spot and enjoy delicious, spicy flavors.

Cabedelo and Rodanho

Cabedelo is a lively beach known for watersports, but also perfect for lunch or dinner by the sea. You'll find plenty of facilities here: free showers, toilets and parking.

Looking for something quieter? Head to Rodanho. You can even walk or cycle there from Yuna. No facilities, but free parking and a lifeguard on duty in summer.

Tip: park at Rodanho, follow the dune path to Cabedelo and walk back along the beach — the best of both worlds..

Active Local Tips

Outdoor fun in Viana

Discover local adventures from buggy rides and waterfall hikes to kitesurfing spots — all the active tips you need for an unforgettable stay.

Cabedelo beach



Cabedelo, the region's outdoor beach with constant wind. Perfect for all watersports.

Viana buggy



Buggy rides are best when the weather's wet or after rain. No dry pants, but tons of fun!

Mountainbiking



Rent an e-mountain bike at Feel Viana: explore waterfalls, wild horses, views, and castles.

Cascata do Pincho



Hidden waterfall worth the walk, don't drive all the way, park and follow the trail.

Hiking Geres



Perfect for hiking. Bring good shoes and water, and enjoy stunning mountains and wild nature.

Rafting en canyoning



Also great fun in the region: try rafting or canyoning for an extra thrill.