

THE GROVE

A COMMONS COMMUNITY · ALENTEJO COAST

32 adults. 11 children. 48 hectares of Atlantic-facing land. Built on shared purpose, seasonal rhythm, and the belief that belonging is the most radical infrastructure of all.

2029

ESTABLISHED

43

MEMBERS

48ha

LAND HELD IN COMMONS

70%

FOOD GROWN ON LAND

HOW TO JOIN

How to Become Part of The Grove

- 01 INITIAL CORRESPONDENCE
Writetous. Tell us who you are, what you carry — yourskills, your history. We respond to every letter personally.
- 02 A VISIT
Spendtwo weeks at The Grove. Eat with us. Work withus.Attend the evening gathering.
- 03 ARRIVAL SEASON
Sixmonths contributing broadly — kitchen, garden,building, learning. No fixed role. It emerges.
- 04 FULL MEMBERSHIP
Community assembly welcomes you formally. Commons credit account, housing allocation, your placeatevery table.

CONTACT & CORRESPONDENCE

The Grove · Herdade do Tempo
Odemira · Alentejo · Portugal
grove@herdadedotempo.pt
37.5931° N, 8.6512° W

"The Grove is an invitation, not an answer."

AN INVITATION

Welcome to The Grove

*"Belonging is notsomething you find.
It is something you build — slowly,
together, in a specific place, across all
its seasons."*

A commons community on the Atlantic coast of southern Portugal — where 43 people have chosen to build their lives around shared land, shared meals, shared knowledge, and the quiet structures that make a life feel full.

THE EXCHANGE

WE ASK

Daily contribution
Community governance
Honest communication
Arrival season commitment
Respect for shared land

WE OFFER

Housing, food & resources
A community for grief
Work that is recognised
Knowledge-rich childhood
Freedom to leave — & return

Architecture of the Commons

 **The Commons Kitchen & Café**
Long stone room, open fires, wood-fired ovens, three communal tables. Tião leads two meals daily from whatever's been harvested.

 **The Long Table & Fire**
Every evening at 6:30pm without exception. No screens. No agenda. Tea, fire, guitar, children on the floor.

 **The School Barn**
Converted barn, chalkboard wall, physical library. Ages 5–16. Teachers rotate. No theory taught apart from practice.

 **Herb Garden & Seed Library**
Walled south-facing garden. Solar-cooled stone vault. Maria's seed labels from the 1990s still in the archive.

 **The Stillness Room**
Whitewashed, cork floors. No electronics. Morning sits, conflict resolution, and collective grief.

THE LAND

OLIVE GROVE Community's own olive oil	ORCHARDS Figs, oranges, pomegranate
COAST 8km to the Atlantic shore	CORK OAKS Native — used in Stillness Room

NEARBY	
Odemira	12km
Aljezur	25km

WELCOME

What We Share

48 HECTARES Held in commons trust. No single owner.	TWO MEALS Communal kitchen, communal table, daily.
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY 70% grown on the land. Zero waste.	OFF-GRID ENERGY Solar array. Community dashboard.
SMART WATER Rainwater. Sub-surface distribution.	EVENING FIRE Every night. The heart of community life.

HOW IT WORKS

- Commons governance
No single owner. Decisions by consensus in monthly assembly.
- Credits, not wages
Contribution tracked in shared ledger. Housing and food earned through participation.
- Technology in its place
Smart systems handle the invisible — so human energy goes to human things.
- Open to the world
Members can travel and work remotely. The Grove is a reason to return — not a cage.

THE PEOPLE

Knowledge

Keepers

Mira
AGE 37 · HERBALIST · SEED KEEPER
Ten years at The Grove. Manages the seed library. Holds the community's botanical memory. Surfs badly on Tuesday mornings.

Tião Ferreira
AGE 44 · HEAD OF KITCHEN
Former Lisbon chef. Two meals a day, every day. Fermentation workshops open to the region. Zero food waste.

Maria
AGE 81 · ELDER · LAND MEMORY
Has farmed this exact land since the 1980s. She tells stories on Friday evenings. Everyone gets quiet.

Duarte
AGE 51 · CARPENTER · BUILDER
Built half the physical structures at The Grove. Teaches carpentry — children have been building a real chicken coop for six months.

Rui
AGE 45 · NAVIGATOR · SEA
Teaches star navigation to children over 12. He believes you should know where you are without a signal.

Maria · 81 → Mira · 37 → Ines · 7
Soil names and 60 years of seasons, passing into compost and a seed vault, into a child asking why dark soil smells like rain.

DAILY RHYTHM