



Central to the thinking of proprietor Jean Claude Defrance in designing the new centre has been the idea of providing interest, fun and intrigue for all the family.

Over the last few months, motorists passing the gates of the Algarve's International School on the EN125 near Porches have been intrigued by the sight of hundreds of handsome olive trees taking solemn station on a large plot directly opposite the school's entrance.

The trees mark the establishment of an inspiring new garden centre - and another major step forward for one of the region's most innovative and original landscape and gardening companies - Natura Garden Centres.

Commanding a spacious and attractive two-hectare site dotted with original carob trees, the new centre has in recent months seen a whole range of new elements added to its original olive tree component.

New structures and facilities have been carefully and stylishly built, to create a framework for not just a well-stocked garden centre, but a venue that offers a range of outdoor and garden products and

attractions to stimulate and entertain the whole family.

Already in place or near completion are a number of sections embracing all manner of quality flora for your garden: large and small trees of many varieties, plants of every description, including many succulents, and a colourful array of flowers. You can also find aquatic fauna, koi carp and goldfish, as well as a wide variety of excellent outdoor items, from beautiful decorative pots to large gas barbecues.

Central to the thinking of proprietor Jean Claude Defrance in designing the new centre has been the idea of providing

interest, fun and intrigue for all the family. An early step in this direction has been the creation of a garden section especially for children. Indeed, Key Stage 3 students from the International School have already enjoyed the opportunity to plant and tend their own garden beds, with expert guidance and advice from the Natura staff.

A soon-to-be established section will be offering a fine line of German-made outdoor playgrounds, all in wood, and which children visiting the centre can explore and enjoy. Shaded pergola sections will offer comfortable seating and refreshments for visitors, where they can read up on the many products available, glean new design and plant ideas for their own gardens and view illustrations of the fine landscaping work that Natura has undertaken for its many clients.

At the same time, clients can enjoy the style and comfort of the beautiful

teak garden furniture on sale, specially imported from Vietnam; or look around the wide selection of materials available for the construction of garden pergolas.

New for Natura is the first serious foray into the aquatic world. Every visitor's eye will be drawn instantly to the striking centre-piece of the site, also easily visible from the road - an enormous circular pond with feature fountain, on which spotlights play at night. This beautiful construction is fed by a bubbling pebble stream that can be crossed, to children's delight, by stepping stones.

From the driveway, visitors are drawn to the pond along a calçada pathway flanked by a series of symmetrical plant ponds, each fed by a water spout. These are followed by a series of fishponds, each with a selection of beautiful koi carp and goldfish. Aquatic plants are available in abundance too, both here and in a further large stone-walled pond



Harbour scene. Harbour scene. Harbour scene.  
Harbour scene. Harbour scene. Harbour scene.  
Harbour scene. Harbour scene. Harbour scene.







Harbour scene. Harbour scene. Harbour scene.  
Harbour scene. Harbour scene. Harbour scene.  
Harbour scene. Harbour scene. Harbour scene.

dedicated to aquatic flora.

Among the real pleasures the centre has to offer are the many small touches which lend it character and style. The calçada pathway, for example, ends with a section of calade, a French Provençal-style paving made up of round or oval stones set in circular patterns, and which provide an original and tasteful alternative to the widely-used Portuguese calçada.



With good taste and refined aesthetics very much the noted hallmark of the Natura landscaping approach, it's no surprise to see these qualities in abundance at the new site.

Beyond all this, and dominating all around, is the original motivation for the centre; the olive trees and no less than 1000 fill the site, like an ancient army, standing imperious in ordered majestic lines, to every visitor's amazement. Such size! And so many! Upon such a sight the urge is strong to plant at least one of these marvels of nature in one's own garden. Natura's expertise extends to the expert pruning, uplift, care and delivery of these fine specimens, and clients can have every confidence that they will be acquiring a quality item.

The establishment of the Porches centre, with its large planting and storage space to complement its sister-centre in Almancil, means that Natura now acquires trees and plants in greater quantities than ever before, hence at much better prices, which can be passed on to customers. And a wander through the centre's huge greenhouses and shaded pergola sections reveals just how much stock, of so many varieties, is available. Indigenous plants, one of Natura's specialities, are available too at amazingly low prices - from as little as €1,50 each, in fact.

Particular attention has been given to mature plants and to items of special interest, such as olive and bayleaf trees of 1.5 metres, shaped topiary-style and placed in handsome pots. Cypresses, willow, pine, palm and fruit trees are all available in quantity and size at amazingly competitive prices, along with every imaginable plant variety.

Natura's arrival in Porches has totally transformed a previously barren site into a wonderland of nature, with something to inspire, delight or surprise every member of the family. The centre carries all the hallmarks established by Natura over the years; the assurance of quality in all its offerings, keen pricing, a wide and original choice of trees and plants and - not least - a real sense of style. ■

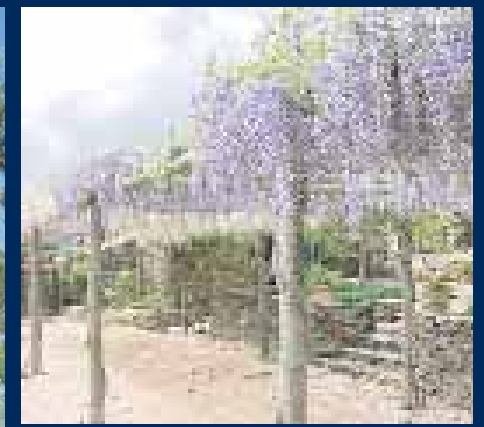


Free delivery service  
Professional discount  
[www.naturalgarve.com](http://www.naturalgarve.com)



*A true graduate of contemporary and Mediterranean-style gardening.*

Environmentally aware  
Water-consumption sensitive  
Aesthetically refined



Almancil & Lagoa

**Almancil** Estrada Vale do Lobo  
Sítio Escanxinhas  
8135-016 Almancil  
Tel +351 289 396 106  
Fax +351 289 391 108  
**Lagoa** Estrada Nacional 125  
opposite the International School  
Tel/Fax +351 282 381 066  
Email [naturalgarve@mail.telepac.pt](mailto:naturalgarve@mail.telepac.pt)

