



There's much more to Lisbon's music scene than just fado. Luís A Rei takes a look at what the city has to offer

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The capital of Portugal is over 850 years old, making it one of the oldest capital cities in the world. The Greeks called it *Olisipo* – derived from Ulysses – which has its origins in the Phoenician *Allis Ubbo*, meaning enchanting port. Today Lisbon is an elegant and multicultural city situated on the estuary of the river Tejo, surrounded by hills. One of the busiest port cities in Europe, it has seen a wave of immigration over the last 30 years, predominantly from former colonies such as Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, Brazil and Goa.

All these immigrant communities contribute to Lisbon's rich diversity, though the majority keep themselves very much apart from Portuguese society and hold their own private parties, weddings, funerals and circumcisions ceremonies. Most of the music you hear in African clubs is *kizomba* and *kuduro* (from Angola) – bubblegum pop built around pre-programmed rhythms. Sadly, most of the best African musicians who live in and around Lisbon, such as Manecas Costa, Lura, Bonga and Waldemar Bastos, rarely play in Portugal.

However, a huge number of young Portuguese world music projects have recently emerged on the streets of Lisbon. Bands such as Terrakota, Dazkariah, Tora Tora Big Band, Monte Lunai and Tama La have brought immigrant musicians into their projects, and play music from all over the world (Afro-*mandinga*, klezmer, Swedish *polskas*), using different types of non-Portuguese instruments such as the *kora*, *balafon*, *cajon*, *darbuka*, *didgeridoo* and *nickelharpa*.

During the 90s, musicians such as Madredeus, Mariza, Mísia and Cristina Branco, launched highly successful careers outside of Portugal. At that time, nobody wanted to release traditional Portuguese music in Portugal. They didn't have the local recognition to play at Lisbon's principal venues – Coliseu dos Recreios and Aula Magna. Today, things are very different. Mariza recently played in Lisbon to an audience of more than 20,000 people. Other *fado* singers such as Camané, Mafalda Arnauth and Katia Guerreiro, are now mainstream artists, no longer confined to the fado restaurant circuit.

AFRICAN RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The Cape Verdean community is probably the most active in preserving and displaying its own culture, with traditional styles such as *morna*, *coladeiras* and *funana* often heard in the bars and restaurants of Lisbon – less frequently there's Angolan *semba*, Guinean *gumbé* or Mozambican *marrabenta*.

Associação Cabo Verdiana

Every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime guitarist ZéZé Barbosa performs. (Rua Duque Palmela 2, +351 21 3532098).

Enclave

A good place to taste Cape Verdean gastronomic dishes and listen to Leonel de Almeida (ex-Voz de Cabo Verde member). (Rua do Sol ao Rato 71-A, +351 21 388 8738).

Casa da Morna

This is Tito Paris' residence (another ex-Voz de Cabo Verde member), one of the most talented guitarists from Cape Verde. (Rua Rodrigues Faria 21, +351 21 3646399).

B.Leza

Situated in a 16th century palace, B.Leza is the best African dance club/bar in Lisbon and the only one with live Cape Verdean

music every night (except Mondays). (Largo do Conde Barão 50, Santos, +351 213 963 735).

FADO HOUSES

Most of the best fado houses are in the historic districts of Lisbon: Alfama (where Amália Rodrigues grew up), Mouraria (where Mariza grew up) and Bairro Alto. (For more information about fado in Lisbon, see *Songlines* #27). Be careful with fado houses, as some just offer folklore dances with music for tourists. Here is a selection of the more authentic places to hear fado:

O Senhor Vinho

One of the best fado restaurants, with an impressive cast of fado singers: Maria da Fé, Aldina Duarte, Carlos Macedo, António Zambujo (Rua do Meio à Lapa 18, +351 21 3972681).

A Parreirinha de Alfama

This is one of the best venues, serving great food (especially seafood and tamboril rice) for around 30 per head. Attracts leading fado singers such as Argentina Santos and Pedro Lisboa. (Beco do Espírito Santo 1, +351 21 8868209).

Clube do Fado

This place attracts up-and-coming fado singers such as Ana Sofia Varela, Joana Amendoeira and Carla Pires. (Rua São João da Praça 92/94, Alfama, +351 21 885 27 04).

Casa de Linhares

This is Manuel Bastos' (ex-Taverna do Embuçado) new house, and one of the most expensive restaurants (around 50 per meal). Portuguese gastronomy meets French nouvelle cuisine. (Beco dos Armazéns do Linho 2, Alfama, +351 21 8865088, www.casadelinhares.com).

Mesa de Frades

This is one of the best value fado restaurants with resident singers Maria da Nazaré, Pedro Moutinho and Miguel Ramos. But the audience can also join the party, go on stage and sing. (Rua dos Remédios 139 A, Alfama, +351 21 8883713).

Tasca do Chico

Here anyone can sing – there are no scheduled professional singers. *Fado vadio* (vagabond fado) is a kind of urban song that was performed secretly and in brothels during the Salazar dictatorship and now the tradition continues at this venue. (Rua Diário de Notícias 30, +351 965059670, www.tascadochico.com).

Museu do Fado

A good exhibition of fado and Portuguese



ABOVE: *Clube do Fado: fado house in full flow* (Mário Filipe Pires)

RIGHT: *Fado star Camané* (EMI Portugal)

MAIN: *Aerial view of Alfama district, Lisbon* (Portuguese National Tourist Office)

guitars, tracing its history and importance. There's also a fado school, auditorium and shop which stocks CDs. (Largo do Chafariz de Dentro 1, +351 21 8823470).

FESTIVALS

Two of Portugal's largest world music festivals happen outside Lisbon, **Festival Músicas do Mondo** in Sines (www.fmm.com.pt) and **Sons em Trânsito** in Aveiro (www.set.com.pt).

Lisbon recently hosted the **African Festival** at the Keil do Amaral auditorium which featured Ali Farka Touré and Zap Mama, among others. But as yet it's not known if Lisbon city council will run the festival in 2006.

Between June and September, the council organises **festas de Lisboa**. During these months, you can listen to fado singers on tram trips (on the number 28 tram), or attend the **Festa da Cerveja** at Castelo de São Jorge, where many fado singers and Portuguese folk musicians perform.

MORE MUSIC VENUES

Santiago Alquimista

More a pop/rock club, but also hosts national and international world music artists. (Rua de Santiago 19, +351 21 8820259, www.santiagoalquimista.com).

Zê dos Bois

Experimental, electronic rock and free-folk



Portuguese mecca. (Rua da Barroca 59, Bairro Alto, +351 21 3430205, www.zedosbois.org).

Onda Jazz

A jazz-oriented bar with Latin music: salsa and *bossa nova*. (Arco de Jesus 7, Alfama, +351 91 9184867, www.ondajazz.com).

Speakeasy

Another jazz-oriented bar by the docklands. They also have new traditional Portuguese and Brazilian musicians. (Cais das Oficinas, Armazém 115, Rocha Conde d'Obidos, +351 21 3909166, www.speakeasy-bar.com).

RECORD SHOPS

MC, Mundo da Canção

Specialises in Celtic folk, all kinds of roots music, jazz and classical. (Centro Comercial Picoas Plaza, Rua Tomás Ribeiro 65, +351 21 3162790).

VGM

Specialises in world music, jazz, classical, medieval and old music. (R. Viriato 12, +351 21 3143920).

FNAC

Possibly the best shop in Lisbon to buy fado. (Armazéns do Chiado, Rua do Carmo 2, Lojas 407, +351 21 3221800). |

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