spread out a bit through all the islands, namely in Corvo; technological such as: windmills, which are more common on Graciosa Island, but are Terceira Island, which pays tribute to liberalism. Important monuments were built, namely the Obelisk of Memory, on the city's development around its bay and especially its contribution to the city's development. During the Spanish rule, fortresses were recognised as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, considering the role, since it was the first European Atlantic city to be developed in order to broaden its horizons during the Discoveries Era. In 1983 it was recognised as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, considering the city's development around its bay and especially its contribution to the discovery of the New World. Similarly to the city of Angra, the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture was also recognised as World Heritage Site, in 2004, stating the importance of the vineyard culture in the Azores. This heritage site displays fascinating rectangular plots, called currais, which are considered to have a divine presence. Some of the churches existing today were built from houses of prayer, while others were built from scratch. One should stress the Mother Churches of Ponta Delgada and Praia da Vitória, of Manueline Style, or Portuguese late Gothic, as well as the Cathedral of Angra. The population's devotion to religion also led to the construction of small houses in honour of the Holy Spirit, called imprevios. These houses comprise an altar where the crown and the flag with a white dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit, are placed. From the 16th century on, shelters and convents were also built, such as the Convent of São Beauventura, on Flores island.

Similarly, and with a view to strengthen the defensive system during the Spanish rule, fortresses were built. Military architecture can also be seen in castles, as in the Castle of St. John the Baptist, on Terceira Island. This is the archipelago's most important fortress, since it was built during the Spanish rule as a defence strategy. Later on, with the end of the absolute monarchy,分別地 suffered some breakthroughs and some setbacks, which led to a liberal government whose seat was established in Angra. At that time, some important monuments were built, namely the Obelisk of Memory, on Terceira Island, which pays tribute to liberalism. With regards to oval architecture, there are different types in the Azores, such as windmills, which are more common on Graciosa Island, but are spread out a bit through all the islands, namely in Corvo; technological facilities, namely the Whale Factory of Boiç Superior, on Flores Island, the Old Whale Factory of Porto Pim, on Faial Island, and the Environmental and Cultural Information Centre of Corvo Island, which is located in the village's historic centre and which displays information on the way of living of Corvo's people. As for public buildings, there are theatres, palaces and manor houses where historic figures have lived. It is the case of Casa das Flores, on Terceira Island, where the writer Vitorino Nemésio acquired a taste for studying, reading and writing, as well as in the House of Manuel de Arriaga, in the city of Horta, and several museums, namely the Museum of Whaling Industry, in Pico Island, and many others spread throughout the nine islands, telling a bit of the Azores history. On some islands there are particularly interesting structures. On Graciosa Island, due to the lack of water, several examples of "water architecture" were built, as tanks, reservoirs, wells and fountains, along the rural paths. In fact, these constructions were powerful systems of water catchment and storage. On Corvo Island, there are the so-called Covas de Junta, which are underground constructions built to hide orals from the pirates and corsairs who attacked the island frequently, as it was easy to access. In Santa Maria, houses are especially interesting, as they are painted in white with colourful stripes, reminiscent of the houses in Avaripes or Alentejo, which are in fact the regions from where the first settlers came. But the city of Angra do Heroísmo soon took on a particularly important role, since it was the first European Atlantic city to be developed in order to broaden its horizons during the Discoveries Era. In 1983 it was recognised as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, considering the city's development around its bay and especially its contribution to the discovery of the New World. Similarly to the city of Angra, the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture was also recognised as World Heritage Site, in 2004, stating the importance of the vineyard culture in the Azores. This heritage site displays fascinating rectangular plots, called currais, which are surrounded by man-made lava stone walls, built to protect the vineyards from wind and seawater. The heritage of the Azores sends us back in time, in memory and in history, and has always left its mark in the Azorean people. INTANGIBLE HERITAGE Azorean people have a peculiar way of being and living due to the geographic and climate conditions of each island, in addition to volcanism, insularity and the influence of several settlers, who did all they could to adjust to these constraints. By doing so, they created a cultural identity which expresses itself through traditions, art, shows, social habits, rituals, religious manifestations and festivities, in which brass bands and folk dance groups are a mandatory presence. Azorean festivities and festivals are essentially characterised by lively evening gatherings, the streets full of people enjoying typical food and drinks, as well as live music concerts. Among the main festivities, the Feast of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres, on the island of São Miguel, is the largest religious feast in the region, followed by festivities of São João (Saint John), which take place all over the archipelago. Nevertheless, the festivities that take place on Terceira Island, the Sanjoaninas, are the most famous, being well-known for their parades in the main streets of Angra do Heroísmo. On the other hand, natural disasters led Azoreans to cling to their faith for their parades in the main streets of Angra do Heroísmo. At the centre of the Espírito Santo Festivities (Holy Spirit) there is a silver crown with a dove, a sceptre and a silver tray. In the same context, other manifestations appeared, such as the romarias (local pilgrimages). This old tradition of a group of men walking around the island in pilgrimage, praying all the way, exists only on São Miguel Island. The religiousness of Azoreans entails the need of materialising the existence of God and faith itself, which resulted in processions and ornamented streets and balconies. Azorean traditions, characterised by their festive and cheerful spirit, take several forms. The street buffett tradition, which is especially important on Terceira Island, goes back to the islands' first settlers and the Spanish presence in the Azores. Carnival is another relevant tradition in the Azores, varying from island to island. There is typical season food and music, and, on São Miguel Island, there are gala events. Carnival is also intensely celebrated in Graciosa and Terceira, where people of all ages dress, sing and dance wildly. Azorean traditions are also intensely celebrated in Graciosa and Terceira, where people of all ages dress, sing and dance wildly. On Terceira Island, in particular, there are some traditional dances, called bailinhos, which aim not only at entertaining the public, who is very enthusiastic about them, but also at engaging in political and social criticism through a theatrical performance. In Graciosa, traditional carnival balls take place all over the island, which is one of the liveliest and most recommended to spend this time of year, offering loads of music and fun. Therefore, every tradition passes on from generation to generation, preserving the collective memory of the great intangible heritage of the Azores.
The Azores have been influenced by external factors since their settlement. In the 15th century, the Azorean traditional cuisine is quite rich in flavors. Although some recipes share their name, each one is unique and special. The weather conditions of the Azores favor the growth of green pastures that feed the animals. Therefore, the landscape offers excellent meat, particularly on the islands of São Miguel, Pico and Terceira, which is famous for its rum spiced beer. In Santa Maria one can enjoy the well-known tunip broth with pork, lamb and homemade bread complete this recipe, whose flavor is so unique. The sea and its products are constantly present in Azorean cuisine. A great variety of fish gives origin to many delicious recipes, such as the famous fish broth and fish stews of Graciosa, Terceira and Pico, and the octopus cooked in red wine of Faial and São Miguel. Seaweed is also very popular, namely the clams of Caldeira da Fajã do Santo Cristo, in São Jorge, or the limpets with special Almonso sauce, in Faial. Grilled limpets are also often requested, as well as slipper lobsters, spider crabs, crabs and whelks.

On the other hand, the most common dish in the Azores is definitely the Espírito Santo soup (“Soul Spirit’ Soup”: bread and meat stock), which also varies from island to island. São Miguel, the most famous dish in the Furnas stew, as its cooking is quite peculiar: the pot with meat and vegetables is buried into the ground, where they cook very slowly, for about six to seven hours, in the fumaroles existing in the Furnas lake area.

There are various kinds of meat to eat with these delicious recipes, including sweetbread (massa sovada, bolos de véspera, bolos lêvedos) and combed bread. These also make a great snack, especially with delicious Azorean cheeses, such as the artesanal Flora cheese, Pico cheese and the internationally renowned São Jorge cheese. Pastry is also an Azorean attraction, especially the Quimadas da Graciosa (small cantaloupe cakes typical of Graciosa Island), named after the island, and of Vila Franca, on São Miguel Island.

Other famous sweets are typical from São Jorge, the so-called Espécies, and Terceira, the so-called Dona Amelia cakes, which celebrate the visit of Queen Dona Amélia to Terceira Island. These pastries are made of eggs and almonds, or of spices brought to the Azores through the sea routes of the East from the 16th century onwards.

The sweet and juicy pineapple of São Miguel, the melon of Santa Maria and Graciosa, the coffee of Fajã dos V vogas and the tea of São Miguel, which are unique in Europe, are the perfect ending for a perfect meal. Both the weather and the respect for the naturally grown give a unique flavor to the Azorean products, namely quality certified jams and canned tuna, which is produced according to traditional methods. The wine culture, grown in lava stone fields, is also very important in the Azores and it is centered in three islands: Pico, Graciosa and Terceira. These wines are quality certified table wines, to be enjoyed with delicious Azorean dishes. But there are also high quality liqueurs, from which the verdelho wine produced in Pico and Terceira should be stressed. The Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a great example of the authenticity of the wine and vineyard culture in the Azores.

In fact, currently there has been a tendency to value and use Azorean products in contemporary cuisine, reinventing and innovating original old dishes and flavors.

FOOD AND WINE

The settlements of the Azores, who came from several European regions, brought with them techniques, concepts and objects that they ended up combining with natural resources. This resulted in works made from the most diverse materials: fabric, pottery, vegetables, wood, metal, stone, bone, ivory, fish scales, glass and synthetic materials.

Therefore, there are unique handicraft objects in the Azores, such as earthware, fish scale objects (in which the scales are coloured and combined with other materials), and jewelry, in which lava stone is also used together with gold and diamonds.

The linen and cotton embroideries of Terceira and São Miguel islands also show out, namely the symbolic pieces embroidered around the statue of Senhor Santa Cruz dos Milagres, patron saint of São Miguel Island, with colored feathers, paper and silk. Santa Maria Island is famous for its handicraft made of red clay, wool, wicker and straw. On the islands of Graciosa, Faial and Flores wicker work is also very typical, especially wicker baskets.

Craftsmen from Faial Island also make wheat straw embroidery over black fabric, as well as they work fig kernels from a native Azorean fig tree. In Flores, it is typical to paint over a piece of pure silk. In São Jorge, there are the famous loom quits made of colourful sheep wool. Pico Island presents a well-known whaling tradition, also known as scrimshaw, which consists of sculpting or carving whale bones and ivory. In the smallest island of the Azores, Corvo, wooden locks, which date back to medieval times, when corsairs and pirates would rob the houses, are the island’s most typical handicraft object. There are still some farmer houses featuring these locks, which are becoming ever more popular among the island’s visitors.

As regards traditional costumes, capes, cloaks, and linen skirts and blouses stand out. Today, these costumes are only worn by ethnographic and folklore dance groups, which keep this art alive. In conclusion, the usefulness of handicraft pieces has gone into decline. Therefore, currently, these pieces are just a souvenir of past times, representing the Azorean culture and the commitment of craftsmen to creating completely unique pieces.

HANDICRAFT

The settler’s diet and the Azorean environment, which is both the sea and the mountains, is the basis of the quality of the food and wine production. The islands of the Azores are rich in products and landscapes, and the wine culture, grown in lava stone fields, is also very important in the Azores and is centered in three islands: Pico, Graciosa and Terceira. These wines are quality certified table wines, to be enjoyed with delicious Azorean dishes. But there are also high quality liqueurs, from which the verdelho wine produced in Pico and Terceira should be stressed. The Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a great example of the authenticity of the wine and vineyard culture in the Azores.