

Casa da Ínsua – Hotel de Charme



Roteiro dos Retratos [Portraits Tour]

In the *Sala dos Retratos* [Portraits Room] we travel across centuries of history through the portraits of the Albuquerque family, among which we give special emphasis to those of Luís de Albuquerque, founder of *Casa da Ínsua*. We owe to the Albuquerque family the physical, historical, and cultural heritage that can be experienced today in the *Casa da Ínsua Hotel de Charme*.

Rodrigo de Albuquerque Castro (~ 1590- ~ 1660) (painting 5)

Rodrigo de Albuquerque was a nobleman from the *Casa de Sua Majestade* (superior rank of the Portuguese aristocracy) and a Knight from the Order of Christ. He was likewise a representative to the King's "Cortes" for the city of Coimbra, and held the position of governor of Tomar.

He lived in Coimbra, in the *Terreiro das Olarias*, in the parish of Santa Cruz, and later, in the *Quinta de Rebelim*. He was the son of Diogo de Albuquerque and Guiomar da Rocha Corte-Real, from Penalva and Coimbra, respectively. He was the father of Francisco de Albuquerque Castro.

Francisco de Albuquerque Castro (~ 1590- ~ 1660) (painting 4)

Francisco d'Albuquerque e Castro was nobleman from the *Casa Real*, Commander of the Order of *S. Martinho das Chãs* and Lieutenant General of the Beira Cavalry. He was born in Coimbra and lived in Ínsua. He was nicknamed "O Gago" and was a brave soldier who fought bravely in the Portuguese Restoration War. He was a cavalry captain in the Alentejo and participated in the battle of the *Linhas de Elvas* and in the battle of *Ameixial*, where he was wounded by two bullets in his left arm and 19 sword blows. Despite being badly wounded, he continued to fight and suffer under the enemy forces, until he fell on the battlefield and was left to die. However, when the soldiers went looking for the dead to bury them, they found him alive and saved him. Later, in the battle of Montes Claros, despite having 47 wounds and two broken fingers, he continued to swing his sword until the end, while he grabbed the horse's bridle with his mouth. King Afonso VI of Portugal, seeing his strength and determination, appointed him cavalry captain in Alentejo and, as he had previously been a member of the infantry, discharged him with great honours. He was also the administrator of the *Morgado da Horta* and, according to Freitas de Barros, "the most dashing gentleman of his time".

Francisco de Albuquerque Castro took part in the procession that went to receive the Princess of Savoy, future wife of King Afonso VI and later of King Pedro II. Bernardo Rangel tells us that the Duke of Savoy had him paint the portrait. Later, his great-grandson, Luis de Albuquerque, had the portrait copied, which is now in the *Sala de Retratos* [Portrait Room] of the Casa of Ínsua.

Son of Rodrigo de Albuquerque Castro and María Toscano. Father of João Rodrigo de Albuquerque Pereira e Castro.

João Rodrigo de Albuquerque Pereira e Castro (~1680--1750) (painting 6)

João Rodrigo de Albuquerque Pereira e Castro was a nobleman of the *Casa Real*, Commander of the Order of *S. Martinho das Chãs* and Captain General of Penalva. He was lord of the *Casa de Penalva* and of the *Quinta da Horta*. Son of Francisco de Albuquerque Castro and Luísa Pereira de Albuquerque. Father of Francisco de Albuquerque e Castro.

Manuel Pereira de Albuquerque (~1690--1760) (painting 8)

Manuel Pereira de Albuquerque was a nobleman of the *Casa Real*, and a canon in the Cathedral (Canon in the clergy house, in charge of explaining and preaching theology in cathedrals).

Francisco de Albuquerque Castro (~ 1700- ~ 1780) (painting 7)

Francisco de Albuquerque e Castro was a nobleman of the *Casa Real*, Commander of the Order of *S. Martinho das Chãs* and Infantry Deputy Colonel. He was also master of the field of the region of Viseu, 10th Lord of Melo da Lousã, 5th Lord of Ínsua and the Lord of Espichel.

Son of João Rodrigo de Albuquerque Pereira and Castro and Margarida Francisca Xavier de Vasconcelos e Soto Mayor.

Father of Luís, João y Manuel de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres.

Luís de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres (1739-1797) (painting 2, 10 and 12)

Luís de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres was a nobleman of the *Casa Real*, Governor and Captain General of Cuiabá and Mato Grosso (Brazil), *Capa e Espada* adviser to the Overseas Council, Commander of the Order of *S. Martinho de Chãs* and Knight of the Order of Christ. Son of Francisco de Albuquerque Castro and Isabel Antónia de Melo Sousa and Cáceres.

The three paintings dedicated to Luís de Albuquerque de Mello Pereira e Cáceres, founder of the *Casa da Ínsua*, portray the three phases of his life. In the **painting 2**, the young captain Luís de Albuquerque at the age of 24, with the blueprint of Praça de Almeida in his hand and at the time when he was an aide to General Mac-Lean. In **painting 10**, Luís de Albuquerque is portrayed at the time of his appointment by the Marquis of Pombal as Governor and Captain General of Cuiabá and Mato Grosso, on the 13th of June 1771. And in **painting 12**, Luís de Albuquerque is portrayed after his year in Brazil, back to his *Casa da Ínsua* and his functions at the Portuguese court.

The eldest son of Colonel Francisco de Albuquerque (**Painting 7**) and Isabel Maria de Mello de Albuquerque Pereira e Cáceres, Luís de Albuquerque was born in the parish of S. Salvador of the Vila do Ladário, on the 21st of October 1739 and he was christened that same day by his uncle Luís Bandeira Galvão. He studied in Coimbra. He was appointed by King João V as a Knight nobleman of the *Casa Real*, on the 25th of October 1758, with the rank of cadet soldier of the Company, commanded by Colonel Francisco de Vila Nova, in the province of Beira. Four months later he was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant. At the age of 24, on the 9th of April 1764 he was promoted to Captain appointed as aide to Field Marshal Francisco Mac-Lean, Governor of Praça de Almeida, where he would remain until 1771.

That year, he was appointed Governor and Captain General of the State of Cuiabá and Mato Grosso (Brazil) by the Marquis of Pombal. In this position, he carried out his duties with merit and the current western borders of Brazil and the development of a vast Amazon region are owed to him. At that time, he built the *Real Príncipe de Beira* Fort, while sending instructions for the construction of the current *Casa da Ínsua*.

On the 1st of June 1790, he returned to Portugal, leaving his brother in his place. He would arrive on the 5th of July 1791, almost twenty years after he had travelled to Brazil, the reason why he was called "the oldest Governor of America" at the time.

As soon as he arrived in Portugal, he was called to Lisbon, where he was appointed *Capa e Espada* adviser to the Overseas Council. Shortly thereafter, in 1793, he was appointed the Commander of the Order of *S. Martinho de Chãs* and Knight of the Order of Christ. He remained in Lisbon until his death on the 7th of July 1797, and his body was buried in the church of S. Sebastião da Pedreira.

João de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres (1741-1796) (**paintings 9 and 11**)

João de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres was Governor and Captain General of Cuiabá and Mato Grosso (Brazil) and a Knight of the Order of Malta.

Son of Francisco de Albuquerque Castro and Isabel Antónia de Melo Sousa e Cáceres.

Manuel de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres (1742-1810) (**painting 13**)

Manuel de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres directed construction work of the *Casa da Ínsua* according to the plans sent by his brother from Brazil. He was a judge at the Porto Court and performed the same functions in Rio de Janeiro. Son of Francisco de Albuquerque Castro and Isabel Antónia de Melo Sousa e Cáceres.

Father of Cristina, Constança and João de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres (the nephew and nieces of Luís de Albuquerque portrayed in **painting 1**)

João de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres (1803-1860) (**paintings 1 and 3**)

João de Albuquerque Melo Pereira e Cáceres carried on the lineage of the lords of Ínsua and passed on this legacy to subsequent generations. Son of Manuel de Albuquerque Melo Pereira Cáceres and Ana Benedita Forbes de Almeida. He married Camila Ribeiro de Faria in 1852. His son Manuel de Albuquerque de Pereira e Cáceres succeeded him in administrating the *Casa da Ínsua*, which he later transmitted to his nephew, João de Albuquerque de Pereira e Cáceres, an engineer by profession.

