



# Sardoal's Traditions

Sardoal is a beautiful village in the center of Portugal and people who visit it, never get disappointed, in fact they get amazed by its uniqueness. In Sardoal there are many traditions, among them we have: Easter festivities; Bodo Festivities and All Saints day.

The First one is related to Easter and the entire meaning of it. During approximately one week, the entire community embraces the spirit of Easter and get ready for the celebrations.

One of the traditions consists in decorating every single chapel in Sardoal (there are approximately 7 chapels) with different varieties of flowers, creating a draw on the floor related of this entire season. Every chapel has a different draw form the others and also from the previous years.

We also have several processions which start 2 weeks before Easter and end Easter day. The first one is called "Passos do Senhor": during this procession, the entire village is dressed in purple for the reunion of Jesus with his mother. The others are called "Procissão dos Ramos", "Procissão do Senhor da Misericórdia-Fogaréus": which in my opinion is the most beautiful of them all due to the fact it is at night and the entire village is only lightened by the flame of several candles. "Enterro do Senhor" and last but not least "Reissurreição".

The local Theater group also preforms during this season a magnificent recreation of Jesus Life/ path.



As we can see, religious traditions have always stood out in our village and “Festa do Bodo” is no exception. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter and it has one particularity which is the fact that it only happens 2 in 2 years.

Back in time, the richest people used to kill animals and bake bread during this day and share them with the less fortunate. Nowadays, the concept of this day has changed a little as it now consists in interacting with each other. There is also a procession in which take part 20 girls dressed in white, symbolizing purity. The girls have different belts with different colors, representing the different civil parishes of Sardeal. Each girl carries a basket with two holy breads which are shared at a common lunch.



Last but not least we have all Saints Day. Even though this day is celebrated by many countries, Portugal has its own version of this day. During this day people honor all the saints and children travel from house to house asking for candy, cookies or even money during the morning.

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