

Adega Mayor Winery and the Centro Ciencia do Cafe (Coffee Science Museum)

Rui Nabiero started life as a smuggler of coffee across the Spanish border in the days of Salazar and Franco, dictators of Portugal and Spain.

His association with coffee led him to create his own brand DELTA in 1961. Without many resources and located in a tiny warehouse in Campo Maior, he started his business with two roasters with a capacity of 30kg. Now, housed in its ultra modern premises, Delta is the market leader, has 38% of the Portuguese market and is a major European player. With 47,000 direct retail clients and 3,000 employees, Delta is one of the most successful companies in Portugal and still controlled by Rui Nabiero and his family and loved by all in Campo Maior, a town to which he has brought much prosperity.

Alongside the enormous processing complex is the Coffee Science Museum, a fascinating, fully interactive facility examining in a very entertaining fashion the history of coffee from bean to cup. Surprising and educational for both adults and children, all exhibits are in Portuguese and English and a fascinating two hours can be spent learning all about coffee.

But Rui Nabiero did not stop there. He had a vision of creating the most modern winery in Europe. Production began in 2002 and by 2007 the Adega Mayor was housed in a unique building designed by the famous Portuguese architect Alvaro Siza Vieira. With 85 hectares producing a million bottles a year, this is a medium sized producer but growth is rapid. The aim was to produce very good wines for all budgets.

There are winery tours, workshops and combined tours of both the Coffee Science Museum and the Winery (the two are within a one minute drive) which make for a fascinating and very rewarding morning's tour.