

PAZO DE TOR

The origins of this *pazo* (manor house) are linked to the 15th-century Garza family, and it remained in the family until its last owner, María de la Paz Taboada de Andrés y Zúñiga, donated it to the Provincial Government of Lugo in 1998. It was converted to a museum and opened to the public on 13 July 2006.

Most of the building dates from the last third of the 18th century, although there are traces of the earlier structure. After a fire caused by Napoleonic troops, it was repaired and partly remodelled. It is in the Baroque style, which persisted for a long time in Galicia, but a certain Neoclassical aesthetic is visible in its sobriety, symmetry and the use of the Classical orders.

As well as the external architecture, visitors to the pazo can see all the rooms, with their original furnishings and the art collections accumulated by the family over the centuries, making it an unusual insight into the way of life of the nobility in Galicia from the Modern to the Contemporary periods.

17 rooms in the pazo are open to visitors, including bedrooms, dining rooms and drawing rooms, most with their original furnishings, and many works of art: paintings, sculptures and decorative arts from many different periods and places. Interesting items include a map of Galicia by Domingo Fontán and an informational plan made in 1757 by the sculptor Agustín Baamonde, with a drawing of the Plaza del Campo Castelo in Lugo.

Notable rooms in the pazo include the arms room, the north salon, the study, the games room, the morning room, the master bedroom and the main dining room.

Arms Room (1)

This holds two suits of armour and a set of panoplies with swords and firearms, including a springald. Notable furnishings in this room include the central table in chestnut with carved drawers, a painted cabinet and a litter for carrying people.

North Salon (4)

Several portrait paintings in oils hang in this room, including the last owner of the pazo, María Paz Taboada, flanked by those of her parents and great-grandparents. Other family portraits include a bishop of Salamanca, José María Varela de Temes (19th century), painted by Cándido Garabal.

Various glazed cabinets show a valuable and eclectic collection of decorative arts (jewellery, fans, pipes, reticules, reliquaries) from many different provenances.

On the centre table, pride of place is given to a ceramic vase hand-painted by Daniel Zuloaga.

This salon leads to one of the guest rooms (5), where the poet Uxío Novoneyra used to stay, and to the chapel (6), with a figurative altarpiece. According to an inscription, the altarpiece and the walls of the chapel were painted in 1909 by José Casanova Cortiñas, a painter from Monforte.

Study (7)

Notable furniture includes a *bargueño* cabinet and matching desk and a closet holding a set of Sargadelos china which belonged to Canon José María Varela. There is

also an important collection of books, some from the 16th and 17th centuries. Among the paintings on the walls, we will mention two oil paintings: *Virgin and Child* and *The Betrayal of Judas*, and a curious bas-relief depicting the Virgin of Carmel.

Games Room (9)

Named for the billiard table in the centre of the room. Notable furniture includes a large solid wood cupboard for storing mattresses, a screen with oil paintings of landscapes and buildings, and various sofas, divans and playing tables scattered around the room. In the same area there is a grandfather clock from the English clockmakers Will Dorrel, with the case decorated with gilded Oriental motifs.

There are several paintings in the room, including three oils depicting Mary Magdalene, St. Francis of Assisi and the Franciscan saints, and the Virgin of Guadalupe.

This salon leads to the lady's bedroom (10), so-called because it was the room of the last owner of the pazo. It includes a hand-painted washstand and two oil paintings on panels: *The Annunciation* and *The Dream of St. Joseph*, signed by the 17th-century painter Landeira.

Morning Room (12)

The room has a fireplace and three large mirrors on the walls. As well as Talavera and Sargadelos ceramics, it displays paintings from different eras: an oil painting on copper, *St. Laurence*, after Titian and three other oils signed by Agrassot: *Landscape*, *Holy Family* and *Ecce Homo*. There is a notable piano from the Collard & Collard Piano Company of London, a pianola and a claviorganum, this last from Longman & Broderip of London.

Master Bedroom (13)

A wooden structure with three rows of Neo-Gothic arches divides the sleeping area from a sitting area. Notable furniture in this bedroom includes a 16th-century canopied bed from Naples, in the Italian Renaissance style, made of palo santo wood and profusely decorated with ormolu insets, plaques and fretwork. Next to the bed is a cradle with discreet marquetry decoration, and on the other side a hand-painted English water closet by Trent.

The furniture in the sitting area includes a *confidante*, an oval sofa for four, a cupboard and a desk.

A spacious corridor (15) with several *bargueño* cabinets and a chest dated 1759 connects several rooms, including the

Main Dining Room (17)

A large central table displays a set of china which belonged to the Canon of Santiago da Compostela, José María Varela.

In a corner of the room is a recently constructed fireplace decorated with pieces in bronze and copper. A *bargueño* cabinet, a 17th-century chest and a clock by the firm Alfredo Delege complete the furniture of this room. On the walls there is a tapestry of a hunting scene and several oil paintings. These include portraits of Cardinal Payá and

Canon José María Varela, an oil painting from the Americas depicting the *Virgen de las Maravillas*, and an unusual devotional portrait of Francisco José de Quiroga y Losada kneeling before an image of the Virgin.

The rooms of the pazo are completed with a gallery (**18**) offering a spectacular view, with an unusual stone maze in the foreground.

Annexes

The recently converted outbuildings include a smithy, henhouse, carriage house (with four 19th-century carriages and various saddles) and a saddler's workshop.

Library

The library holds a total of 2,948 volumes, or 2,154 titles, with books from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

Coordinates of the Pazo de Tor (*datum* ETRS89)

UTM: 29 617558 4713921

geographical: 42°34'7,49"N 7°34'3,74W

decimals: 42.5687479737 -7.5677044448

Opening times

Tuesday to Sunday: guided tours at 11.00 am,
12.30 pm, 4.30 pm and 6.00 pm.

Mondays: closed

The pazo is closed on:

1 January, Carnival Tuesday, 22 May (St. Rita) and 24, 25 and 31 December.

Entrance free of charge

Pazo de Tor

San Xoán de Tor

27591 Monforte de Lemos (Lugo)

Tel.: +34 982 165 534 / pazodetor@museolugo.org

www.museolugo.org