

Fertile soil, abundant springs, mild climate, proximity with the capital, were some of the factors that brought the Aristocracy to build their manors and palaces, the country houses of a privileged class, in Vila Franca de Xira hills. The most important, by its magnificence and history, are Quinta Municipal de Suberra and Quinta Municipal do Sobralinho (Municipal Manors).

Quinta Municipal da Suberra

Erected on the seventeenth-century, its history is, during more than three centuries, the history of a primogeniture and its aristocrat owners. The nineteenth-century was its golden age, associated to the presence of Bemposta and Suberra marchionesses. The manor has become a rendezvous place for the aristocracy of that time and for royal visits.

S. José Chapel (seventeenth-century) has on the inside seventeenth-century tiles and the oil painted canvas of the main altar were painted by Bento Coelho da Silveira. The palatial building has a nineteenth-century design, once it was rebuilt by that time. It is possible to visit the cellar, a garden with geometric design and a rocaille fountain of great artistic interest. In 1980, the City Council purchased this Manor.



Quinta Municipal do Sobralinho

Erected on the seventeenth-century, as residence of Vila Flor Counts, the palace was enlarged on the eighteenth-century, when they built the front turrets. On the nineteenth-century, the 1st Duke of Terceira, recovers the palace and the manor becomes a meeting point for that time aristocracy, with several visits of D. Maria II and D. Fernando II. In 1944, a fire destroyed the palace, being then purchased by Ricardo Espírito Santo. The rebuilding was done by the order of his daughter, D. Rita Espírito Santo Silva.

The inside and the garden were covered with panels of tile, of neo-classical and rococo style, under the orientation of architect Luís Possolo. Two rooms of the noble floor have paintings of the eighteenth-century, especially three canvas of the French painter Jean Pillement (1728-1808). The wooden ceilings were painted by Antero Basalisa.

