

CERVEJARIA REAL FABRICA, Rua Escola Politecnica 277

The 'Cristal' is, rather strangely, a delicious black licorice-tasting beer. I had two... The bar also has a website www.realfabrica.pt. A dotty old dear has just come in and wiped her chair seat, chair back and table down with tissues before sitting down! When her beer arrives she even wraps a tissue around that to pick it up with, and her roll too, when that appears - is she Roger Hedley in disguise?

PASTELARIA BENARD, Rua Garrett

Both the other 'Rough Guide' bars I tried had disappeared, including the home brewplace, but this place has 'Cristal' too. Unfortunately, it is a pale fizzy tasteless lager, presumably denoted by the different colour pump clip. Ah well, never mind. As for the bar, I thought it was just me, but the bar staff only speak to each other, NOT to the customers!

ANOTHER CAFE, Rua Sao Pedro da Alcantara

This has Sagres, which I understand is the National Bland of southern Portugal, and it certainly is...

The TV in the bar has a Portugese 'Spitting Image' show on - it must be, because I don't recognise anybody!

O CONQUISTADOR, Up by the castle

Outside seating and boring Sagres, but the beer is cold and wet and I am hot and desperate so who cares?

FROG AT EXPO, rua da pimenta 17 a 21, Parque das Nacoes

Part of the Frogpubs chain (the only one outside France), but I haven't done it anyway!