



**G R E A T N E S S**  
CULTURE TRADITION HERITAGE

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## The Camellia Route: “Pazos” and Gardens full with history and romance



*Pazo de Oca, Pontevedra, Galicia*

Dear friends,

It is unknown whether Marco Polo brought **camellias** as a souvenir from China. If he did so, he unknowingly pioneered the first pilgrim camellia that found a home in the aristocratic gardens of the Galician "Pazos".

The English and Dutch were applied to study with enthusiasm the properties of the leaves, and in the mean time the discarded flowers arrived in their ships to London and Lisbon. And from there, renamed as camellias in honor of a Jesuit missionary, arrived to Galicia.

Centuries later the only route in Europe dedicated to discover the more than 8,000 varieties of camellias, housed in streets and squares of the towns of Galicia, was created. *A journey from garden to garden, from pazo to pazo, that gives light to the landscape and soul of Galicia.*

Our proposal takes us through this evocative journey from northern to southern Galicia through manors and gardens where the varieties of Camellia reign in their entire splendor. As examples, the "Camellia reticulata" found in the impressive **Pazo de Oca**, is perhaps the oldest in Europe. Or the Camellias at **Pazo de la Saleta**, brought by an Englishman in 1968 and that perfectly adapted to the environment.

Finally, at **Pazo del Sar**, we will enjoy a nineteenth century French garden in perfect condition. The old vineyards surrounded by more than 50 species of fruit trees bring us back lost flavors.

**Pazos and landscapes in an elegant decadence, authentic botanical gardens created with care and wisdom that will discover you their beauty secrets.**

At Greatness we invite you to enjoy privileged access and unique perspectives on the Spanish treasures.

Warm regards,

Isabel Benjumea  
CEO & Founder

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*Pazo de Oca, Pontevedra, Galicia*

## **PAZO DE OCA**

*Available for visits,  
experiences and events*

Oca is the most impressive and most famous of Galician Pazos (Palaces). Usually referred to as the “Generalife of the north” or “Galician Versailles” it is just 15 miles away from

Santiago de Compostela, the final milestone of St. James’s way. Above all, the gardens at Oca are what astonish the most. Recently restored to its 18th century glory, the beauty here is the fusion of formal garden with working farm; the perfect combination of the useful and the decorative. This is a mossy, misty melancholic garden, wonderful in early spring when the legendary camellias come out.



*Pazo del Sar, La Coruña, Galicia*

## **PAZO DEL SAR**

*Available for visits,  
experiences and events*

Pazo del Sar is an early 18th century building in a baroque civilian Compostelean style, with strong Italian influences that give away the Genovese origin of its

founder, Marquis of Piombino. The estate covers an area of 126,000 m<sup>2</sup> and the beautifully constructed main building exceeds 2,100 m<sup>2</sup>. Built in terraces over a river canyon, the Manor House is surrounded by an ancient Atlantic forest in perfect condition that hosts an amazing biodiversity. Otters, owls, herons, wild ducks, trout, vermilion frogs, squirrels, ferrets, kingfisher, red foxes and endangered species like the turquoise lizard *das silvas* find shelter here.