



49.

**CHURCH**  
OF THE  
SAVIOUR  
OF REAL



-  Rua da Igreja Velha  
Real  
Amarante

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-  41° 15' 22.52" N  
8° 9' 42.23" W


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-  +351 918 116 488

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-  Divine Saviour  
6<sup>th</sup> August

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-  Submitted  
to classification

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-  P. 25

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The Church of Real is isolated and stands at a slightly higher level than the path that leads us to it. The construction of the new parish church, in 1938, led to the abandonment of the former, whose building still shows significant Romanesque sections, especially on the main façade and on the south elevation, despite having undergone major transformation works between 1750 and 1760. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, this Church belonged to the patronage of Travanca (Amarante) (p. 212). Regarding the medieval period, little do we know about this Church. However, taking into account the remaining traces, we suggest it was built in the first quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The main portal of Real proves that the Church fits into a very late Romanesque style: it does not feature a tympanum, the fine columns are headed by capitals with small-sized sculptures attached to the frustum and the two archivolt that compose it, in addition to being broken, are shaped as tori. It is an adaptation of an influence from the Romanesque style from the city of Porto. On the south façade, we may still see an arcosolium with a sarcophagus, whose lid bears an engraved sword, thus



demonstrating the social status of the person who was buried there. Close by there is a stone massif - perpendicular and addorsed to the chevet's southeast angle - that shows a belfry of a clear Romanesque flavour. Once inside, we see the triumphal arch; it is formed by two broken archivolt and rests directly on the walls.

The bare nature of this Church is emphasized by the stucco layer that covers it in its entirety, thus creating a chiaroscuro effect that makes the Romanesque consecration crosses stand out; these crosses are pattée and inscribed in circles. The 18<sup>th</sup> century left deep marks in the Church of Real, which are identifiable in





## THE HERITAGE OF THE OLD CHURCH

The construction of the new church of Real led to the transfer of the main altarpiece that, until the 1930's, presided the old Church. Its monumentality clearly contrasts with the simple altarpiece currently worshipped in the chancel of the old Romanesque Church. The one that used to stand there and may now be admired in the new church of Real, besides being organized around a bulky Eucharistic throne surmounted by a representation related to the Blessed Sacrament, shows a pelmet with full-body cherubs leaning against it. Here, its polychromy, which defines marbled contrasts, is clearly matching the *rocaille* motifs.



New church of Real. Main altarpiece

The ambon and the pulpit parapet that surrounds it, located on the Gospel side of the old church's chancel, matches the altarpiece we have just described, meaning they were surely manufactured by the same workshop. The main altarpiece that replaces the one that had been transferred contrasts with these two richly elaborate elements. With no large volumes, and giving great emphasis to the architectural structure, it only establishes a connection with the other elements of the chancel by resorting to a similar polychromy.

the opening of large windows along the nave and chancel, in the design of the three crosses aligned with the gables and in the flame-like ornaments placed on the ends of the nave's angles. The variations in terms of masonry work reveal that this building underwent many transformations throughout its history.

It was around this period that the parish Church received the pulpit and a choir (although the existing one is surely from a later period). Three altarpieces - the main one and two collateral ones - completed the Church's contents.



### DON'T MISS OUT

- 7.1 km: Amarante Golf Course (p. 280)