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Unraveling the Mysteries of Oranges

And guess what? The Algarve is an orange wonderland!

**What we didn't know about oranges
And we are surrounded by them in the Algarve!**

Portugal is renowned for its oranges, and some countries have used their version of the word Portugal to name their orange fruit, such as Romania (portocálá) and Greece (portukáli). The conditions in the Algarve region are perfect – the soil, sun in plenty and pretty much no frost, with over 80 percent of the Portuguese orange groves being located here. But why don't most have seeds, why do some look different, and why do we seem to have oranges ready for picking all year round (which is probably clever planting techniques of the different types).

Seedless - So, the technical stuff of being seedless. They are not an example of GM crops modified through bio-engineering. Apparently, they occurred naturally in a single mutated tree, discovered by farmers in a Brazilian orange grove in the 1870s. Cuttings were sent to the USDA which propagated the trees through grafting and rooting practices, starting the seedless navel orange boom. And here's a word you probably never knew – parthenocarpy. In simple terms, it's the development of fruit without fertilization of the ovules and, therefore, without seed development.

Grafting - all commercially available citrus trees are grafted or budded to speed up the process of harvesting fruit and to increase disease resistance through using a hardier rootstock. Grafting takes the roots of one plant, called the stock, and fuses onto it the shoot of another plant, called the scion. In general, grafted orange trees start to produce fruits at their 3rd or 4th year of age, with their most productive period being between 10 and 40 years old. The average healthy and mature orange tree produces 200-350 oranges. However, experienced orange farmers after years of practice can probably double that.

Types of oranges

One of the most popular of the oranges is the **Navel Orange**. When it is peeled, there is a partially formed, undeveloped conjoined 'twin' fruit on the blossom end and is named because it looks like, well, a human belly button, or navel. It's

naturally seedless; any new trees must be grown from cuttings of old trees. The harvesting starts in November and can last until March.



The **Valencia Late Orange** is harvested during the months of June to September and is medium to large in size, with a spherical oblong shape. It has no navel, has very few pips, is very bright in colour, with peel slightly thick and smooth. Their season usually begins around April and they can remain on the tree until summer, late June or more, depending on the season's weather.



The **Newhall Orange** is one genus that is harvested between November till late

January/early February, and has an oval shape, is medium to large in size, has a small navel, with smooth peel and an intense orange colour. Sweet and seedless.



The **Lane Late Orange** is harvested between February and May, and is medium to large in size, although slightly smaller than the Newhall, round in shape, has no pips and has a small navel, barely visible externally.



The **Rhode Orange** is harvested between the months of March and May. Is medium to large in size, has no pips and has a small navel, visible externally.



In the heart of Algarve, amidst sunny orchards, the story of oranges unfolds—a tale of nature's wonders, agricultural ingenuity, and the joy of savoring this delightful citrus treasure all year round.

Orange facts—peeled and revealed!

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Testimonial Of The Week



Efficient and professional in all aspects. Extremely happy with everything. Congratulations!

José

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