

## **Message from the Mayor of Peniche**

It is an honour and a pleasure for Peniche Municipality to receive the Rip Curl Pro - Search 2009. For the first time Portugal is included in the ASP World Tour circuit, the major world's professional surfing competition and for the first time the waves of Peniche are considered reliable to the success of this event. These latter constitute a fair acknowledgement of the excellence of its natural features that legitimates and reinforces the brand "Peniche – Capital da Onda" (Peniche - the Wave Capital).

This choice becomes fully legitimated when we realize that it was the surfers who elected Peniche, through ASP (Association of Surfing Professionals), as the place where Rip Curl Pro Search 2009 will take place. After St. Leu (Reunion Island), La Jolla (México), El Gringo (Chile) and Bali (Indonesia), it is Peniche's (Portugal) turn to host this major surfing event.

We will do all we can to ensure our excellent hospitality to everyone who comes here to enjoy this remarkable event. We also hope to match up to the expectations of surfers and associated brands.

Peniche municipality and all the West Region have a variety of interesting places to visit and that may constitute a complement to Rip Curl Pro Search 2009. We recommend a visit to Reserva Natural das Berlengas (a candidate to UNESCO Biosphere Reserve), to the West coast and its rural landscapes, not forgetting to taste the local delicious seafood specialities and also the wines from our region.

Peniche's waves serve other purposes besides surfing; they have also been explored as an energy resource (wave energy). The waves of Peniche are an important encouragement to the sustainable development. And Peniche municipality is very concerned about preserving its treasures – natural resources.

I would also like to mention and thank the entities that have been working with us and have contributed in any ways to the success of this appliance to Rip Curl Portugal, I would also like to thank the Portuguese Government for its strategic vision - supporting and sponsoring of this world championship – contributing decisively to place Peniche and Portugal among the world's best spots for the practice of a sport that fully respects the preservation of natural resources.

*ANTÓNIO JOSÉ CORREIA*

(Mayor of Peniche)

