

## **MANOR HOUSE MILLS OF ANTERO**

### ***Guided Tour***

**The Pazo Molinos de Antero is situated on the Road of Malvaron, an old royal road, so called because it was one of the routes followed by royalty and nobles as they travelled between Madrid and Santiago de Compostela in the first half of the 19th century. It was also an important route for commerce and general transit between Galicia and Castille.**

**The house is one of the most interesting ancestral buildings in the Terra de Lemos area, with characteristics typical of the Enlightenment period in which it was built and decorated. It remains the property of the founding family and they receive no state aid for maintenance.**

**The main house was constructed at the end of the 18th century, alongside an existing house and water mill, and the decorative works were finished at the beginning of the 19th century. The frescoes clearly show neoclassical influences, popular at the time, and are the work of the painter Juan Bernardo Pérez Castinande. On the first floor the frescoes have suffered some damage due to ingress of rainwater, however those on the ground floor are in fine condition.**

**The founder, Manuel Antero Yáñez Rivadeneira (1781-1850), carried out the functions of alderman of the town, collector of royal taxes on tobacco, and representative of the Royal Order of Saint John of Jerusalem in Galicia. In 1826 he was also awarded the title "Knight of the Royal Order of Charles III" following his actions during the 1808-1813 Napoleonic invasion of Spain when he buried state funds inside the house and hid them from the French invaders.**

**An astonishing number of spy holes and listening grilles are found throughout the house. Through these any visitor could be watched and overheard at all times. An elaborate wire and bell security system was also installed. These precautions were necessary because at the time of the construction of the house Spain was passing through a period of political instability and it was important to try to learn as much information as possible from any visitors to the house.**