

IBERIAN WINE TOURS

Celtic Iberia



Fine Wines & Gastronomy
of Galicia, Bierzo and
Northern Portugal

June 11 -18, 2017



What to expect

June is a wonderful time to enjoy dynamic contrasts of the culture, food and wine of the Celtic region of the Iberian Peninsula.

Misty valleys echo to soulful Celtic pipes and coasts as dramatic as the west of Ireland have sent hosts of emigrant Gallegos to the Americas. Fish, beef and wine predominate. Seafood in the rias (fjords) is Europe's best and the stunning wine terraces of Ribeira Sacra show winemaking at its most dramatic. Inland valleys and stone villages in Bierzo tell of a history linked with the Camino of Santiago. The stunning Valdeorras is truly a valley of gold and historic Ribeiro is one of Iberia's oldest wine regions.

Northern Portugal is a throwback to days gone by, a world away from Algarve glitz and glamour in the south. Porto is a gem of a city, the clusters of atmospheric streets either side of the Douro retaining their long lived maritime soul whilst opening the door to the 21st century through fabulous restaurants and luxury hotels.

Above all though, the joy is in the small villages where grapes which are unrecognisable to outsiders produce wines of huge character, quality and individuality. If you're looking for chardonnay and merlot go elsewhere, if you want to discover the glories of Mencia, Godello, Vinhao, Merencao, Treixadura and the port grapes join the tour.

Highlights

- Optional walking tour and tapas dinner in Santiago de Compostela
- Visit to one of Spain's top producers Descendientes de J Palacios in Bierzo
- Visit the world's oldest Godello vines at Valdesil by 4x4 vehicle
- Boat ride along the almost vertical canyons of the River Sil
- Visits to top class wineries in Ribera Sacra, Bierzo, Valdeorras, Ribeiro and Vinho Verde
- Winemaker lunch in the vineyards of Bierzo
- Staying at historic Paradors and country houses
- Family lunch with local hams and cheeses in Vinho Verde
- Michelin star dinner in Porto
- Visit to one of Portugal's finest port lodges in Villanova de Gaia



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Trip Itinerary

Start in Santiago de Compostela. Optional walking tour and dinner on Saturday 10th June

Day 1. Leave Santiago for visit and lunch in Ribeira Sacra at Adega Algueira. Fernando Gonzalez makes a range of excellent reds and whites (from local varieties) that are highly rated by Parker. We enjoy lunch that features prime Galician beef and red wine, as well as surprisingly good whites. Then we enjoy a river cruise down the Sil in the late afternoon that gives the best vantage point for the almost vertical vineyards that cascade down to the river. Evening is free in Monforte de Lemos.

Day 2. Morning wine visit Bodegas Estefania-Tilenus producers of fine Mencia wine before a visit with lunch in vineyards Mengoba. Gregory Perez is a charming winemaker, passionate in his pursuit of creating unique wines. We are delighted to share lunch among the vines in this wonderful part of Bierzo. Check in to the hotel in Villafranca del Bierzo. There is time to freshen up and take a walk around the historic town, a famed stopping point on the Camino of Santiago before dinner.

Day 3. Morning wine visit with top class Bierzo winemaker Veronica Ortega, before visit and lunch at the bodega of the Descendientes de J Palacios. The new winery designed by Moneo is not yet open so we are delighted and honoured to be one of the first visitors at one of Spain's top wine producers.



Evening check in to the charming country house of Pazo do Castro (above) in nearby Valdeorras.

Day 4. Morning wine visit La Tapada, Valdeorras producers of excellent Godello and one of the recent pioneers of the region. Wine visit with lunch at Valdesil, one of the best producers in the region where we drive a 4x4 through the vineyard and visit the world's oldest Godello vines. Evening back at the hotel where we enjoy dinner in the dining room.

Day 5. We drive towards the coast to the historic white wine region of Ribeiro. This was Spain's most famous white wine region in centuries past (and even during Franco's time). Traditionally, the wines here are blended from local varieties and go well with seafood. We have a tasting at the beautifully located Gomariz before lunch at Vina Mein. Mein is at the forefront of creating more modern upscale wines here. Free evening in the Parador at Tui

Day 6. We cross the border into Portugal for a morning wine visit at Marcial Dorado, Vinho Verde. There is a tasting with Luis Cerdeira at Quinta do Soalheiro before with lunch at his sister's nearby farm where we enjoy locally produced hams and cheeses with some of the region's best alvarinhos. Evening dinner is at the Parador in Tui

Day 7. Morning wine visit Quinta Casal do Paço in Vinho Verde where we enjoy Vasco Croft's top quality wines in his superbly isolated winery before the drive to Porto. The afternoon is free before evening visit to Taylors, one of the great names of Port wines. We try a selection of the finest tawnies up to a 40 year old tawny (with 19th century wines in the blend) and of course some Taylors vintage ports. We walk just across the road for a Michelin dinner the Yeatman, with stunning views over the city of Porto.

Day 8. End of tour.

** Some of these visits are provisional but would be replaced with another of equal importance*

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\$3750 per person double occupancy

\$500 single supplement

\$500 deposit per person

**Optional day in Santiago \$375pp
sharing (\$100 single supplement)**

Limited to 20 guests

Included

- 1 night Parador Monforte de Lemos
- 1 night Parador Villafranca del Bierzo
- 2 nights Pazo do Castro, Valdeorras
- 2 nights Parador Tui
- 1 night Eurostars Hotel, Porto
- Private transport by luxury coach
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 6 lunches/ 4 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

Not included



Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides

Contact us to sign up for this trip

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