



Portugal & Galicia, Spain

The food, wines & culture

October 11 - 20, 2020



Treasures of the Iberian Northwest

This trip offers a wonderful overview of the best of Galicia and northern Portugal, including two wine regions of Galicia, the Vinho Verde region on the way to the wonderful Douro, the vibrant city of Porto, the bold wines of the Bairrada, finishing in the cosmopolitan capital of Lisbon. Magnificent scenery, great contrasts between wine styles and nationalities, Celtic Spain and five wine regions in nine days, this is always one of our favourite trips. What's not to love?

What's so special about Galicia and northern Portugal?

Galicia confounds those who think of Spain as flamenco and fighting bulls as much as the Douro and Minho surprise Algarve lovers. 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. Fishing 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.

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. The rural wine regions of the Bairrada, Dao and Vinho Verde offer food and wine experiences more closely tied to their origins than most places on the planet. The Douro is one of the greatest wine tourism

destinations, the astonishing terraces overlooking the river now producing great red wines and ports.

Lisbon is one of Europe's great cities, a place on the rise and the base for Portuguese exploration from Vasco de Gama onwards, as well as being scenic and dramatic.

Above all though, the joy is in the small villages where grapes, unrecognisable to outsiders, produce wines of huge character, quality and individuality. If you want to discover the glories of godello, vinhao, merenciao, albarino and the port grapes join the tour.

Trip Highlights

- Michelin 2* dinner The Yeatman in Porto
- Wine visits in Rias Baixas, Vinho Verde, Douro and Bairrada
- Boat ride on River Sil
- Walking tours of historic cities of Santiago de Compostela and Lisbon
- Family-cooked lunch in Rias Baixas
- Dinner at top restaurant DOC
- Michelin star dinner in Cascais

Top wineries included

Quinta do Vallado, Niepoort, Quinta do Noval, Aphros, Quinta do Bomfim, Algueira, Pazo de Senorans, Kopke, Grahams

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Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Sunday 11 October. Meet in the foyer of the Hotel San Francisco, a converted 18th century convent in Santiago de Compostela for a guided walk through the historic town, including a visit to the cathedral that marks the end of the legendary Camino. Early evening Tapas dinner at Petiscos do Cardeal in the old town.

Day 2. Monday 12 October Visit and lunch at Adega Algueira, a high-class winery near the Sil canyons, where Fernando Gonzalez makes a range of excellent wines (from local varieties) that are highly rated by Parker. Lunch and then a river cruise down the Sil in the afternoon. Short walk to one of the chapels overlooking the river. Return to Santiago for a free evening.

Day 3. Tuesday 13 October Head south to the seaside wine region of the Rias Baixas for tasting at the beautiful Pazo de Señorans. Short drive to visit and lunch at Albamar. Xurxo Alba's wines are a great small producer expression of the albariño grape. There is a typical Galician o furancho style seafood lunch cooked by the family. Check in to the Parador in Baiona. Dinner at the hotel overlooking the bay.

Day 4. Wednesday 14 October Morning tour of the fortress and the site of the return landing of Columbus's Pintia. Visit the best wine producer in the vinho verde region, the charismatic Vasco Croft in his Aphros winery. After lunch, head south to the dramatic scenery of the Douro. Check in to the lovely Vintage House, overlooking the river at Pinhao. Tasting menu dinner at DOC, the best restaurant in the region.



Day 5. Thursday 15 October Morning visit at Grahams's Quinta do Bomfim before visit and lunch at Quinta do Noval, one of port's greatest names and estates. Drive to the stunning city of Porto and check in to the Pestana Hotel overlooking the River Douro. Evening free.

Day 6. Friday 16. Visit to Quinta de Napoles, home to the famed family producer Niepoort. Walk through the vineyards before a buffet lunch on the terrace. Afternoon visit to another of the 'Douro Boys' at Quinta do Vallado, before the lovely train ride back to Porto from Regua. Free evening.

October Day 7. Saturday 17 October Morning guided walk around Porto followed by a Colheita tasting at Kopke, the oldest port wine house. Lunch is Portuguese tapas at the Wine Box before an afternoon visit and tasting in the director's room at the beautifully located Graham's port lodge. Dinner in the Yeatman's 2-star Michelin restaurant, one of Portugal's very best.

Day 8. Sunday 18 October Head south to the fairytale Bussaco Palace for a tasting of their rare wines and lunch. On to Lisbon and our hotel in the heart of town, the stylish CR7. Light evening tapas meal near the hotel.

Day 9. Monday 19 October Walking tour through the heart of Lisbon to take in some of the stunning vistas from the Alfama district and other central landmarks. Free afternoon. Last night dinner at the wonderful Michelin star Fortaleza do Guincho in Cascais.

Day 10. Tuesday 20 October After breakfast, end of tour.

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\$4700 per person sharing**

\$950 single supplement

\$500 deposit per person

Limited to 20 guests

**** Get an early booking price of \$4600 per person sharing if you have completed your booking by 31st October. Please note that to qualify for the early booking price, the balance payment must be made by check or by wire, otherwise full price applies**



Not included

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

Included

- 2 nights at the Hotel San Francisco, Santiago de Compostela
- 1 night at the Parador, Baiona
- 2 nights at Vintage House Hotel, Pinhao
- 2 nights at The Pestana, Porto
- 2 nights at the CR7, Lisbon
- Private transport by luxury coach
- English speaking guides
- Breakfast daily; 14 lunches or dinners
- Entrances and activities as specified
- All winery visits

Contact us to sign up for this trip

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