



Lisbon & Madeira

Gran Reserva
March 1 - 7, 2021



Gran Reserva, Lisbon and Madeira

We are truly excited with this new tour for our Gran Reserva Club members, which offers the best that Lisbon, and it's surrounding regions of Colares and Setubal have to offer. Throw in Madeira, aka the Pearl of the Atlantic, and this becomes a truly spectacular trip offering wonderful contrasts in wines, landscapes and gastronomy.

What's so special about Lisbon & Madeira?

Lisbon is one of Europe's great cities, a place on the rise and the base for Portuguese exploration from Vasco de Gama onwards; it is scenic, dramatic and vibrant. Setubal is famed for its sensational muscatels and renowned cheeses. Colares, on the rugged Atlantic coast, is home to the most westerly vineyards in Europe and their unique sand wines. Grapes, unrecognisable to outsiders, produce wines of huge character, quality and individuality.

Fresh seafood is abundant and the standards of restaurants, with top chef Jose Avillez in the vanguard, keep on reaching new heights.

Madeira is a little oasis in the Atlantic, one of the famed "Enchanted Isles". The spectacular scenery is matched by the delicious flavours of the sweet fortified wines for which the island is so famed. Fragrant with pleasing acidity and a refreshing tang, these wines improve slowly with age. Naturally seafood is king here and why not when you have all of nature's bounty on your doorstep.

Trip Highlights

- Michelin 2* dinner at Gallo d'Oro, Funchal
- Wine visits in Setubal, Colares and Madeira
- Wine lunch in Lisbon with top Portuguese winemaker and personality, Luis Pato
- Boat ride along Madeira coastline
- Walking tour of historic city of Lisbon
- Spectacular lunch at Palace of Bacalhoa
- Cheese making in Azeitao
- Optional hike to waterfalls in inland Madeira
- Spectacular seafood lunches on the beach
- Scenic cable car rides in Madeira
- Traditional Fado music in Lisbon

Top wineries included

Quinta do Bacalhoa, Casal Santa Maria, Old Blandy Lodge, Diana Silva, Faja dos Padres



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Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Monday 1 March. Meet in the foyer of the Hotel do Chiado in central Lisbon and head south to Setubal. Morning visit at the **Quinta Velha** cheese museum in Azeitao. Azeitao is one of Portugal's best known and loved cheeses, a round casing the home of a soft sheep's cheese that you eat with a spoon (and a glass of Setubal muscatel too). We get a hands-on lesson on how to make some of this lovely cheese and enjoy a tasting.

Visit to the 15th century **Quinta da Bacalhoa** and its magnificent Renaissance Bacalhoa Palace, home to the first painted tile in Portugal as well as some excellent sweet wines. This is perhaps the finest producer of moscatel de Setubal, a fortified wine that is both very aromatic and delicate, reminiscent of a fine aged tawny port. Lunch at the palace is a rare treat in sumptuous surroundings. Free evening in Lisbon.

Day 2. Tuesday 2 March Our first stop is the Colares wine region, famous within Portugal for traditional sand vines and long lived wines. We enjoy a visit to Baron Bruemmer's beautiful **Casal Santa Maria** estate near the coast (he was a 105 year old White Russian who escaped the Bolsheviks in 1917) to try some of the excellent red and white wines as well as enjoying a tour of the vineyards and estate. Very short downhill journey to **Adraga** beach for a wholesome and dramatic fish lunch with white wines from the most westerly vineyards in Europe.

Evening visit to one of the Fado bars in the Bairro Alto for some light tapas and to hear the haunting traditional Fado music for which Lisbon is famed.

Day 3. Wednesday 3 March Morning walking tour through Belem to take in some of the stunning vistas of the River Tagus and other historical landmarks. Lunch is a special occasion today! We are privileged to have lunch with one of Portugal's best winemakers (and top personalities) **Luis Pato**, at our friend Alex's **Lisbon Winery** in the Bairro Alto. We will be tasting some special wines

introduced by Luis and enjoying some great local produce from around Portugal. Dinner at the wonderful **Pateo** in the **Bairro do Avillez**, in the lively Chiado district, run by Portugal's best chef Jose Avillez.

Day 4. Thursday 4 March Morning flight to one of the world's prettiest islands, Madeira. Famous for its sweet fortified wines the island is a treasure trove of wonderful experiences. A morning cable car ride up and down the Monte gives us a bird's eye view of Funchal and much of the island. Lunch is at **Gavaio Novo**, one of the best restaurants in the city's old town. Afternoon visit to the **Old Blandy Lodge** dating from the mid 1800's, to see the cooperage and taste some great older wines. Check in to the Vine Hotel, located right in the centre of Funchal. Free evening.

Day 5. Friday 5 March Optional morning walk along one of the levado (irrigation channels) trails taking in the waterfalls and natural beauty of the Enchanted Isles. Visit to the **Diana Silva winery** in the north of the island. Diana is a producer of some of the finest still wines on the island and it is interesting to see that there is more than fortified production on Madeira. After a walk in her vineyard Diana will also join us for lunch and give a presentation of her wines at a nearby restaurant. Free evening.

Day 6. Saturday 6 March Morning drive through Cabo Girão where we see some of the world's highest cliffs before a visit to the stunning **Fajã dos Padres** which we approach by cable car 1000ft down to the secluded beach where Jesuit priests began to grow the famed Malmsey wines in the 1600s. Special tasting of some Madeira wines from the family cellars followed by lunch right on the sea shore. Return to Funchal by boat to enjoy the wonderful views of the coastline. Time to freshen up before last night dinner at the renowned 2 star Michelin restaurant, **Gallo d'Oro**, a fitting way to end a spectacular tour.

Day 7. Sunday 7 March After breakfast, end of tour.

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\$4600 per person sharing
\$595 single supplement
\$500 deposit per person
Limited to 20 guests

Included

- 3 nights at the Hotel do Chiado, Lisbon
- 3 nights at Vine Hotel, Funchal
- Private transport by luxury coach
- English speaking guides
- Breakfast daily; 9 lunches or dinners
- Entrances and activities as specified
- All winery visits

Not included

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



Contact us to sign up for this trip

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