



# Portugal & Galicia, Spain

The food, wines & culture

June 3 - 12, 2022



## Treasures of the Iberian Northwest

This trip offers a wonderful overview of the best of Galicia, Bierzo and northern Portugal, including three wine regions of Galicia and the Vinho Verde region on the way to the wonderful Douro, finishing in the vibrant city of Porto. Magnificent scenery, great contrasts between wine styles and nationalities, Celtic Spain and six 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. Ribeiro and Bierzo are stunning regions with plenty of history and wonderful wines too.

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 21<sup>st</sup> century through fabulous restaurants and luxury hotels.

The rural wine region of Vinho Verde offers food and wine experiences closely tied to its origins. The Douro is one of the greatest wine tourism

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

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, Merençao, Albarino, Mencia and the port grapes join the tour.

### Trip Highlights

- Michelin 2\* dinner The Yeatman in Porto
- Wine visits in Rias Baixas, Ribera Sacra, Bierzo, Ribeiro, Vinho Verde, Douro
- Lunch at the legendary Quinta do Vesuvio
- Boat rides on River Sil and River Douro
- Walking tour of historic city of Santiago de Compostela
- Dinner at top restaurant DOC
- Michelin star lunch in O Grove

### Top wineries included

Albamar, Palacio de Fefiñanes, Algueira, Aphros, Mengoba, Veronica Ortega, Quinta do Soalheiro, Coto de Gomariz, Niepoort, Quinta do Noval, Quinta do Vesuvio, Grahams

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## Trip Itinerary

**Day 1 Friday 3 June.** Meet in the foyer of the Hotel San Francisco, a converted 18th century convent in Santiago de Compostela and our home for the next 2 nights, 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. **D**

**Day 2. Saturday 4 June** Head south to the seaside wine region of the Rias Baixas for tasting at the beautiful Palacio de Fefiñanes. Short drive to visit at Albamar. Xurxo Alba's wines are a great small producer expression of the albariño grape. Lunch is at the top quality Michelin star restaurant Culler de Pau in the nearby O Grove. Back to Santiago for free evening. **B/L**

**Day 3. Sunday 5 June** 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. Check into the Parador of Monforte de Lemos for 2 nights. Dinner at the hotel. **B/L/D**

**Day 4. Monday 6 June** Morning visit to the Mengoba winery in the Bierzo region for a tasting of Gregory Perez's highly rated wines. On to top female winemaker Veronica Ortega for a tasting involving some more of the wonderful Mencia grape. Lunch is at the rustic Moncloa de San



Lazaro. On the way back to the hotel we call in to Las Medulas, the most important gold mine in the entire Roman Empire. Free evening. **B/L**

**Day 5. Tuesday 7 June** We visit Coto de Gomariz, one of Galicia's avant-garde wineries and one with a proud history of being the oldest registered winery on the Iberian Peninsula, in the Ribeiro DO. We taste their red and white wine produced using organic and biodynamic methods. Cross into Portugal for a visit to Quinta de Soalheiro, one of the premier wineries in the Vinho Verde region, with lunch at their nearby family run Quinta da Folga. Back to the wonderful Parador in Baiona for one night where we enjoy a tapas dinner. **B/L/D**

**Day 6. Wednesday 8 June.** Visit the charismatic Vasco Croft in his Aphros winery Vinho Verde region. After lunch there, head south to the dramatic scenery of the Douro. Check in to the lovely Vintage House, overlooking the river at Pinhao for next 2 nights. Tasting menu dinner at DOC, the best restaurant in the region. **B/L/D**

**October Day 7. Thursday 9 June** Morning visit to the wonderful Quinta do Noval before a short train ride to one of the region's legendary locations, Quinta do Vesuvio. Lunch here is a privileged experience, before a train ride back to Pinhao and a free evening. **B/L**

**Day 8. Friday 10 June** Morning traditional rabelo boat ride to Folgosa before a visit and lunch at Quinta de Napoles, home to the famed family producer Niepoort, one of the original 'Douro Boys'. Head on to Porto and check in to the majestic Yeatman Hotel, our base for the next 2 nights. Free evening. **B/L**

**Day 9. Saturday 11 June** Morning visit and tasting at the historic Graham's port lodge. Lunch and afternoon free before dinner in the Yeatman's 2-star Michelin restaurant, one of Portugal's very best. **B/D**

**Day 10. Sunday 12 June** After breakfast, end of tour.



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**\$4900 per person sharing**

**\$995 single supplement**

**\$500 deposit per person**

**Limited to 20 guests**

**\*Please note that the itinerary is subject to change according to Covid-19 restrictions**

## Included

- 2 nights at the Hotel San Francisco, Santiago de Compostela
- 2 nights at the Parador, Monforte de Lemos
- 1 night at the Parador, Baiona
- 2 nights at Vintage House Hotel, Pinhao
- 2 nights at The Yeatman, Porto
- Private transport by luxury coach
- English speaking guides
- Breakfast daily; 12 lunches or dinners
- Entrances and activities as specified
- All winery visits



## Not included

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

*Contact us to sign up for this trip*

## Iberian Wine Tours

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