



Portugal & Madeira

September 15-22, 2024



Lisbon and Madeira

We are truly excited with this new tour to Lisbon, and its surrounding regions of the Alentejo, Colares and Setúbal 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. Setúbal 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, 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

- Fado dinner in Lisbon
- Michelin 1* dinner at William, Funchal
- Wine visits in Setúbal, Colares, Alentejo and Madeira
- Boat ride along Madeira coastline
- Walking tour of historic city of Lisbon
- Spectacular lunch at Palace of Bacalhoa
- Cheese making in Azeitão
- Walk in inland Madeira
- Spectacular seafood lunch on the beach

Top wineries included

Quinta do Bacalhoa, Casal Santa Maria, Herdade do Rocim, Esporão, Old Blandy Lodge, Terra Bona, Faja dos Padres



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Trip Itinerary

Day 1. Sunday 15th September

Meet at 1830 in the foyer of the historical Avenida Palace Hotel in Lisbon. Head for fado dinner in Lisbon. D

Day 2. Monday 16th September

Morning walking tour through Belem to take in some of the stunning vistas of the River Tagus and other historical landmarks. We then head to 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 to try some of the excellent red and white wines as well as enjoying a tour of the vineyards and estate. Lunch is at the winery with white wines from the most westerly vineyards in Europe. Free evening. B/L

Day 3. Tuesday 17th September

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. Lunch at the palace is a rare treat. After the visit we drive inland to the Alentejo region. The Alentejo landscape evokes the south of Australia, big skies and vistas and the most extensive cork plantations in Europe, set amidst ancient towns and heritage. Check in to our hotel, the beautiful M'ar de Ar Aqueduto located inside the city walls, for the next couple of evenings in Evora. We enjoy an Alentejo style dinner in one of the best local restaurants in the city, Fialho, featuring a selection of local dishes and wines. B/L/D

Day 4. Wednesday 18th September

Morning visit and tasting at **Herdade do Rocim**. Then we head towards the Spanish border and the

town of Reguengos de Monsarraz. We visit **Esporao**, one of Portugal's largest and best known wine producers, who make a range of excellent whites and reds near a reservoir on a huge estate that has a tower dating back to the 15th century. We enjoy a visit to the winery before a tasting of a selection of the Esporao olive oils and lunch at the winery's restaurant. Free evening B/L

Day 5. Thursday 19th September

Early afternoon flight (to be booked separately) to one of the world's prettiest islands, Madeira. Famous for its sweet fortified wines the island is a treasure trove of wonderful experiences. Late 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 legendary and historical Reid's Palace in Funchal. Dinner traditional restaurant Gavaio Novo. B/D

Day 6. Friday 20th September

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. Free evening. B/L

Day 7. Saturday 21st September

Morning walk along one of the levado (irrigation channels) trails taking in the waterfalls and natural beauty of the Enchanted Isles. Visit to the **Terra Bona** winery, a producer of some of the finest Rieslings on the island and it is interesting to see that there is more than fortified production on Madeira. After the tasting we enjoy lunch of regional and homemade delicacies. Time to freshen up before last night dinner at the renowned 1 star Michelin restaurant, **William**, a fitting way to end a spectacular tour. B/L/D

Day 8. Sunday 22nd September After breakfast, end of tour.

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\$4995 per person sharing
\$900 single supplement
\$500 deposit per person

Included

- 3 nights at the Avenida Palace Hotel, Lisbon
- 3 nights at Reid's Palace, 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

Iberian Wine Tours

+44 7873263809

info@iberianwinetours.com

www.iberianwinetours.com

