

PORT WINE & MORE

Porto, Douro Valley, Alentejo, Lisbon & Azeitão

Day 1

Your English speaking chauffeur driving a deluxe vehicle will collect you at the Porto International Airport with a sign reading your name, and you'll be swept away to your romantic Relais & Chateaux hotel, located in the charming village of Amarante about 40 minutes from Porto in the beautiful Portuguese countryside.

Housed in a splendid XVI century palace, in the historical heart of the quaint town of Amarante, only 40 minutes from Porto city, and 1 hour from the Port Wine vineyards, this charming relais, offers you courteous service, exquisite cuisine and a discreet ambiance. The rest of the day will be free to relax at the pool, or visit the colonial style town. For dinner treat yourself at their restaurant and pair your starter with the house "Vinho Verde".



Day 2

Your charming chauffeur will pick you up this morning from your hotel and drive you via a scenic route towards the bustling town of Oporto, Portugal's 2nd largest city.

Overlooking the Douro River, Porto is one of the most ancient European cities. It was born and developed from the northern bank of this river during the middle Ages. One of the most significant aspects of Porto and its historical centre is its landscape, combining harmony with the urban structure and presenting a frame of rare beauty. The city was classified as World Heritage by UNESCO in 1996. Besides its welcoming and conservative environment, Porto is also contemporary and artistic. This is shown not only in the streets, architecture, monuments and museums but also in the terraces, restaurants and shopping areas.

During the morning you'll indulge in a VIP visit to the Ramos Pinto Port Lodge and will be amazed by the marketing geniality of the company's founder while visiting their museum. Not far from Ramos Pinto stands the Grahams Wine Cellars where they will treat you to some of their best Ports of neo-classic British-Portuguese. For lunch we recommend the Presuntaria Transmontana, a regional restaurant, known for the cold and hot "tapas". Quite a treat!

After lunch you will enjoy a tour of Porto escorted by an expert guide. You'll peek into the Lello bookshop, an exquisite landmark dating to the early 1900's and learn more about Henry the Navigator, by visiting his birthplace, the Casa do Infante and also be able to admire the Casa da Musica (Concert Hall). The Porto Chamber of Commerce started building the Palácio da Bolsa (Stock Exchange), its seat and property in 1842. Throughout three generations, many masters and craftsmen worked towards the building of this 19th century architectural jewel in neoclassical style. Classified as a National Monument, the Palácio da Bolsa, this is one of the cities and the region's main emblematic structures. Ending your day's outing, your personal driver will escort you back to Amarante.



Day 3

After breakfast, you will be driven through one of the most picturesque areas in Europe. Don't forget your camera! The Region of Douro starts approximately one hundred kilometers east of Porto, to the border with Spain. It covers approximately 250,000 hectares, of which 40,000 are vineyards. The Port vines are planted along the steep, spectacular hills overlooking the River Douro and its tributaries. Generations of men and women have toiled tirelessly to build terraces into the rock face (an essential element for supporting the vines on these slopes) that created an impressive landscape of unequalled beauty where stifling hot, dry summers are followed by harsh, wet winters. It is the region's characteristic poor soil and uncompromising Mediterranean-like climate which produces one of the most sought after wines in the world, Port.



Your journey, through the Port Wine region, will start at the Pacheca Wine Estate, where you will be hosted by the owner. He will lead you through the vineyards showing you all the process of producing their wines. After this experience, you'll love the next treat, a two-hour Rabelo Boat private cruise on the Douro River, heading towards Pinhão where your boat will dock at the Vintage House, with stunning views. Lunch is available at the hotel's fine restaurant. After lunch your chauffeur will take you to the Infantado Wine estate, an exclusive winery, where the owner, who is a descendent from a family of oenologists, will host you and will introduce you to their exclusive Ports. This leisurely personal visit is informative and relaxing. At the end of the day you will be driven back to your lovely hotel.



Day 4

Today you will drive in the direction of the southern region. First stop will be at Casa do Cadaval. This magnificent wine and horse estate, founded during the XII century, is the site of one of the most beautiful Portuguese Palaces. Upon arrival at the estate you will be welcomed by the master rider at the Riding Hall and you will have the opportunity to ride a Lusitano Stallion for a classical dressage lesson.

After this unforgettable experience you will have time to taste their wines from the different varieties (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir) as well as selected blends such as Padre Pedro, Herdade de Muge and Marquees of Cadaval. The house oenologist will share the "secret" flavours while you taste. Then you will be invited by the owner (Countess Teresa Álvares Pereira Schönborn-Wiesentheid) of the Domain, to have lunch at the Palace.



After lunch, a cart pulled by two noble studs, awaits you to explore this very unique farm, going through the vineyards, natural reserve where you will meet the mares and foals. After this experience, your chauffeur will drive you towards your deluxe hotel in Évora, Check-In at the impressive XV Century Monastery, where King John II held the Royal Assembly in 1481, recently converted into one of the most beautiful in Portugal. For dinner we do suggest the hotel restaurant Divinus, located in the old monastery cellars.



Day 5

Your day begins with a walking city tour in Évora during which your expert guide will share his expertise about the city's history and local monuments, such as the Roman Temple, the Bones Chapel and the Medieval Cathedral. Drive in the direction of Reguengos in order to visit the worldwide famous Esporão Wine Estate vineyards. Lunch will be at the estate restaurant where you will have the opportunity to taste some of the local olive oils and cheeses, paired with some of their excellent wines in this tranquil setting, spotted by the greenery of the corkoaks and olive trees.

During the afternoon, you will visit the Monte Limpo wine estate, located only a few minutes from Évora with excellent wines. The Monte do Limpo is a typical estate from Alentejo, which dedicates itself to the production of quality wines, with the unmistakable character of the Alentejo wines. Located in unique surroundings, with magnificent landscapes, the Monte do Limpo enjoys a privileged view of the beautiful village of Monsaraz. Due to its location, at the foot of the Castle's mountain and near the old "Estrada Real", the propriety keeps within itself many secrets and stories about the Court and the noble knights.

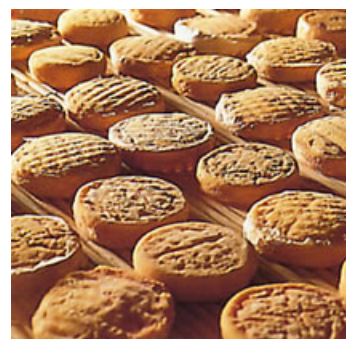
Your touring ends with a visit to the José de Sousa wine estate. In the centre of the picturesque town of Reguengos de Monsaraz, you can visit one of the world's most unusual wineries, where the José de Sousa and José de Sousa Mayor wines are produced, as are Montado wines. Keeping alive a tradition initiated by the Romans over 2000 years ago, the José de Sousa winery is equipped with 114 clay amphorae, a fermentation method as rare as it is old. The old cellars are below ground level and contain the urns and two open lagares for treading the grapes. There is also a new winery equipped with 44 stainless steel vats and all the technology indispensable for making red and white wines. This is the perfect place to witness the marriage of old and new methods and to learn more about some exceptional wines. You will be driven back to your hotel at the end of the afternoon to enjoy an evening at leisure.



Day 6

After checking out of your lovely hotel, your chauffeur will take you to Azeitão, a coastal region, located 23 miles (46 minutes) south of Lisbon near the Arrábida Mountains. Azeitão it is mostly a vineyard farm area of exquisite beauty. Enjoy a brief walking city tour in the centre of quaint Azeitão and visit the winery José da Maria Fonseca. This Wine Estate is the oldest company in Portugal producing table wines and the Setúbal Moscatel (a sweet and refreshing wine). It was founded in 1834 and at their museum - the old family home of José Maria da Fonseca – you will taste some of their best wines, hosted by one of the house specialists, in the original wine-cellar where the table wines and "moscatel" are still aged in wood.

For lunch we suggest you enjoy the Azeitão Restaurant, an excellent typical venue specializing in the regional gastronomy. The owners will treat you like special guests. Their quality regional food and excellent wine list will be served in a friendly atmosphere. After lunch your driver will take you to Lisbon at the door of Lapa Palace Hotel, considered a landmark in Portuguese hospitality. Built in 1870 as the private residence of the Count of Valença, the Lapa Palace may well be described as a resort within the city, set on a hill overlooking Lisbon's Tagus River, amid tranquil gardens dotted with ornamental fountains and streams. The hotel is located in Lisbon's most exclusive residential area surrounded by stately embassy buildings and noble homes, and is minutes away from the historic and monument areas, the pier and the shopping district. For dinner you can not miss the Ristorante Cipriani Hotel and its exquisite cuisine.



Day 7

According to your flight departure time, meet your chauffeur at the lobby and he will take you to Lisbon International Airport. Adeus Portugal!

INCLUSIONS:

- 6 nights luxurious accommodations (3 nights Amarante; 2 nights Evora; 1 night Lisbon)
- all transfers in luxury vehicle with English speaking driver
- private airport transfers
- private English speaking guides
- private wine tastings as per itinerary
- private Rabelo cruise on the Douro River
- two hosted lunches
- daily breakfasts
- all applicable taxes

PRICE PER PERSON: based on double occupancy

2 Guests: \$9,559 Cdn.

4 Guests: \$6,795 Cdn.