

Wine Roads of Portugal

For
the independent
traveller

between the Douro and Minho rivers

13 DAYS

DEPARTURES ANY DAY

DAY 1 – Oporto – arrive at Oporto Airport and transfer to Hotel Infante de Sagres*****.

Oporto is famous for its scenic beauty, excellent wines and remarkable bridges. If arriving in the morning, one can visit the **Cathedral**, the Soares dos Reis Museum, or the **Rua da Dom Hugo**, a typical street of Oporto. At night be sure to have dinner at *Escondidinho* restaurant, a regional style tavern serving famous port wine.

DAY 2 – Oporto – after breakfast, visit Vila Nova de Gaia, home of the **Port Wine** lodges such as Cálem, Sandeman, Ferreira, Taylor, Croft and others. For lunch we suggest *A Aldeia*, a traditional Portuguese restaurant. Rest of the afternoon free for sightseeing in Oporto.

DAY 3 – Oporto/Viana do Castelo (road 13) – After breakfast, we begin our trip to the north of Portugal via the broad Atlantic white sand beaches, passing through the towns of **Vila do Conde**, **Póvoa de Varzim**, **Ofir** and across the **Cávado River**, the town of **Esposende**. Stopping for lunch at *Cozinha de Dom João* and continuing to **Viana do Castelo** where we will stop for the night at a delightful manor house the Casa do Ameal or at the hilltop of Santa Luzia at the Pousada do Monte.

DAY 4 – Viana do Castelo/Minho Region (roads 13 & 101) – after exploring the charming town of Viana do Castelo and seeing the fine panoramic view from Mt. Santa Luzia, we head north to the upper Minho and visit the town of **Valença**, a frontier town with an ancient convent converted into a *pousada* in the middle of an old fortress overlooking the **Minho River** and Spanish Galicia. Be sure to try some of the finest seafood of the area, trout stuffed with ham. Pousada de São Teotónio.

DAY 5 – Monção/Tuy-Spain (road 101) – day trip to visit the fortified town of **Monção**, famous for its spring waters and wines. Here we can taste the famous *Alvarinho* Vinho Verde. Crossing over the border into Spain to visit the town of Tuy for lunch at the Parador de Tuy (be sure to purchase Pesetas). Pousada de São Teotónio.

DAY 6 – Arcos de Valdevez/Ponte de Lima (roads 101 & 203) – driving south to **Ponte de Lima** passing through a charming hillside town on the **Vez River**, **Arcos de Valdevez**. Upon arrival in Ponte de Lima go to the Tourist Office located in the center of town for directions to Paço de Calheiros manor house, still owned by same family after many generations. Paço de Calheiros House.

DAY 7 – Ponte de Lima area (road 203) – day to explore the beauties of **Ponte de Lima** with its oldest market in Portugal (mondays) and the nearby wonderful old town of **Ponte da Barca**. We suggest lunch at *Beco das Selas* in Ponte de Lima. Paço de Calheiros House.

DAY 8 – Ponte de Lima area – day at leisure to relax around the swimming pool at Paço de Calheiros (weather permitting) or explore the neighbouring beautiful countryside. Paço de Calheiros House.

DAY 9 – Braga/Guimarães (road 101) – after breakfast at Calheiro's, we leave the upper Minho and go south to **Braga**, founded by the Romans in 296 BC, and home of the oldest cathedral in Portugal. Here we visit the well known **Church of Bom Jesus**, located in the wooded Monte Espinho. Lunch at the restaurant of the Hotel Elevador offers an excellent view of the city. Try *Solar das Bouças* wine made from *Loureiro* grapes. After lunch, we head for **Guimarães**, an attractive town and the cradle of Portugal where our accommodations at Pousada Santa Marinha at Costa, is one of the architectural treasures of Portugal. For dinner at this former convent Pousada we suggest whitening with seafood rice, a speciality of the house. Pousada Santa Marinha.

DAY 10 – Guimarães (roads 101 & 15) – today we explore **Guimarães**, birthplace of Afonso Henriques, first king of Portugal, and the first capital city of the country. Time for shopping for hand woven linens, fine embroidery, or wood carvings. After lunch we begin our trip to the **Douro Region**, first stopping at **Amarante**, a fine picturesque town located along the wooded banks of the Tamega River. Amarante is the centre of six subregions of tart Vinho Verde wines and can also be called the capital of the Vinho Verde country. We begin a steep ascent up to the **Alto Espinho**,

which leads to the **Serra do Marão**, where we find our hotel for the night, the Pousada de São Gonçalo with its dramatic views of the valleys. For dinner we suggest roast turkey accompanied by *Bairrada* red wine. Pousada São Gonçalo.

DAY 11 – Vila Real/Régua/Pinhão (roads 2, 323 & 322) – Today we visit the **Douro Region**, starting with **Vila Real**, known for its world renowned Mateus Wines and its Palace of Mateus. Also **Régua** a busy river port town and headquarters of the Port Wine Institute. In the area lie some of the oldest British and Portuguese estates. Another wine center is **Pinhão** and nearby Quinta do Noval, port producers, open to the public. From **Pinhão**, within a beautiful bank of the Douro, we return by a spectacular scenic road via **Sabrosa**, birthplace of Fernão de Magalhães (first circumnavigate the globe) to the Serra do Marão. Pousada São Gonçalo.

DAY 12 – Penafiel/Oporto (road 15) – on our drive back to Oporto we will visit the town of **Penafiel**, which stands above the quiet waters of the Sousa and Cavalum rivers. A few miles from Penafiel is the Quinta de Aveleda, the best known of all *green wines* produced in Portugal and open to the public (Casal Garcia and Aveleda Wines). Hotel Infante de Sagres.

DAY 13 – Departure – after breakfast at the splendid deluxe traditional Infante de Sagres Hotel downtown Oporto transfer to the airport, saying good-bye to this beautiful country – **Portugal**.

Number of main routings to destinations are given on each day.



Douro, grape baskets
Montanhas
Photo Nuno Calvet



Douro Valley,
Montanhas
Photo João Paulo