

*Travel Update! More historic and rare private visits!*



**Private Portugal: Exemplary Private Palaces, Villas and Gardens, from Porto to Lisbon**

Sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

Organized by Pamela Huntington Darling, Exclusive Cultural Travel Programs

**Saturday, June 14th to Sunday, June 22nd 2014: 8 days & 8 nights**



From its early history under the Romans, Visigoths and Moors, to its rise as the first global empire, Portugal has played a crucial role in world history. Established in the 12th century, Portugal is the oldest country in Europe, its influence culminating in the 15th and 16th centuries, when this Iberian nation achieved a naval status unequalled in the world, establishing the first sea route to India and colonizing areas in Africa, Asia, South America and Oceania.

Today, Portugal's world-class vineyards, unspoiled countryside and superb vestiges of its historic past—many UNESCO World Heritage Sites—make it one of the most compelling destinations in Europe.

Guided by our expert lecturer Cristina Leal, a scholar in the fields of Portuguese history and art, for eight exceptional days our exclusive program will offer an intimate group of discerning guests **unprecedented access to admirable private palaces and wine estates, monuments and museums to view masterpieces of architecture, art, Azulejo tiles, interior décor and garden design, and sample some of Portugal's greatest vintage wines as private guests of the estates.**

We will devote three days to Porto, two days to Évora and Coimbra, and three days to Lisbon, with day trips to Portugal's lush vineyards and countryside. We will be received by Portuguese nobility and esteemed members of the cultural elite for exclusive visits, wine tastings, luncheons, receptions and dinners, with gourmet cuisine, in their remarkable private residences with marvelous gardens, art collections and stupendous views of the surrounding towns and countryside.

**Tour Highlights**

**Day 1: Saturday, June 14th: Welcome to Porto, A UNESCO World Heritage Site**

**Arrival in Porto at The Yeatman luxurious 5-star hotel and spa overlooking historic Porto.** Guests will be warmly greeted by Pamela Huntington Darling, expert lecturer Cristina Leal and The Yeatman's General Manager. **(3 nights)**

**Afternoon welcome tea and orientation on The Yeatman Resort terrace,** with stunning views of Porto, followed by an expert-narrated visit of the city by private coach, including the neoclassical **Bolsa Palace** and the Baroque 13th-century **Saint Francis church**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Refreshments at the Café Majestic,** a lively Belle Époque landmark considered one of the ten most beautiful cafés in Europe. We will enjoy light Portuguese specialties in Art Nouveau splendor.

**Evening private visit, wine tasting and dinner at Graham's Port Lodge.** The world's leading producers of fine vintage Port for generations, we will enjoy a tour of the picturesque **Graham's Lodge**, with magnificent views, a tasting of exceptional vintage ports and dinner in the Lodge's acclaimed Vinum restaurant and wine bar.

**Day 2: Sunday, June 15th: The Douro Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**

**Morning visit to the Solar de Mateus Vila Real,** an 18th-century palace and gardens, considered a pinnacle of Portuguese Baroque architecture, with an important art and antiques collection exemplifying the height of gracious living.

**Private visit & lunch at Quinta da Pacheca Estate in Régua, one of the oldest Port wine producers.** Guests of the owners, we will enjoy a visit and tasting of their top vintages, on the terrace overlooking the Douro Valley, followed by lunch in their private dining room.



**Private afternoon visit to the National Museum of Lamego with the curator Dra. Alexandra Braga** to view its unique collection of 16th-century Flemish tapestries.

**Dinner at The Yeatman's rooftop terrace**, where we will enjoy spectacular panoramic views of historic Porto and the Douro River and a superb dinner specially prepared for us by the hotel's Michelin-starred chef.

#### **Day 3: Monday, June 16th: Trip to Minho, the Green Land**

**Private morning visit at Quinta de Aveleda Estate with the owners.** The Guedes family will graciously receive us for a tour of the garden's scenic lakes and tree-lined lanes and a tasting of the estate's finest wines.

**Private luncheon at Casa de Sezim with the owner José Paulo Pinto Mesquita**, who will warmly receive us at his lovely private manor—his family's ancestral home since 1376—set on 50 acres of vineyards and gardens. We will enjoy a seasonal lunch prepared by the owner's personal chef.



**Afternoon visit to the Monastery of St. Martin of Tibães, Braga.** Founded in 1060 this extraordinary monastery is noted for its outstanding architecture and vast park.

**Private visit, cocktails and dinner with Count Francisco de Calheiros** at his beautiful estate and vineyard **Paço de Calheiros**. We will be personally greeted by the Count, who will preside over cocktails in the garden followed by a gourmet dinner in the estate's supremely elegant dining room.

#### **Day 4: Tuesday, June 17th: Coimbra and Évora, Learning and Legends**

**Morning visit to the University of Coimbra.** The Vice-Rector, **Dr. Luís Menezes**, will welcome us for a special tour of the impressive grounds and its masterpiece 18th-century library, **Biblioteca Joanina**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Luncheon at Quinta das Lágrimas.** Nature, charm, history and elegance conspire to make Quinta das Lágrimas (Estate of Tears) an extraordinary retreat, for centuries a private sanctuary for kings and emperors (at cost to guests).

**Early afternoon visit to Tomar, former Seat of the Orders of the Temple and of Christ**, including the Templar castle and the Convent of the Order of Christ, built between the 12th and the 17th centuries. The **Convento de Cristo**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the most expressive testimonies to the history of Portuguese architecture.

**Afternoon drive to Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.** Member of The Most Ancient European Towns Association, we will explore the beautifully preserved Évora's, many monuments, including a **Roman temple** and the **Água de Prata** aqueduct.

**Arrival, rest and dinner at the 5-star Pousada de Évora, Loios.**

Set in the historic center between the **Gothic Cathedral** and the **Roman Temple of Diana**, this 5-star luxury hotel is housed in a former monastery founded in 1487, one of Evora's most precious architectural treasures. Guests will enjoy leisure time and a relaxed dinner in the graceful former cloister overlooking lovely gardens (at cost to guests). **(2 nights)**



#### **Day 5: Wednesday, June 18th: The Portuguese Royal Families, Évora & Vila Viçosa**

**On our morning walking tour of Évora**, we will view the former residences of **Vasco da Gama** and **King Manuel**, followed by a visit to the majestic **Church of Saint Francis** and the **Chapel of the Bones**.



**Private visit, wine tasting & lunch at Quinta de Dona Maria**, the stately private residence and wine estate **Quinta do Carmo**, with co-owner Isabel Baston. After a tour of the estate, we will enjoy a wine tasting in the picturesque winery, followed by a gourmet lunch in the owners' exquisite private residence.

**Afternoon private visit to the Ducal Palace de Braganza.** Accompanied by prominent historian **Dr. João Paulo de Oliveira Costa**, we will enjoy a privileged tour of this celebrated palace.

**Evening private cocktails and dinner at the Palace of the Dukes of Cadaval.** **Princess Diana of Orléans, Duchess of Cadaval**, and her mother **Duchess Claudine of Cadaval**, we will welcome us for cocktails on the palace's splendid terrace and a private tour of the palace's church, among the most exceptional private churches in Portugal, followed by dinner in the palace with the Princess and the Duchess.

#### **Day 6: Thursday, June 19th: The Treasures of Lisbon**

**Morning visit to Quinta da Bacalhoa Estate**, former property of the Portuguese Royal Family, it is considered the most beautiful 15th-century Portuguese estate and gardens in existence and of the greatest relevance to the country.

**Arrival in Lisbon & Lunch at the 5-star Pestana Palace, Member of "The Leading Hotels of the World"**, a luxurious hotel and spa, housed in an 18th-century palace surrounded by splendid gardens with a variety of plants and subtropical trees, classified as a National Monument. Guests will enjoy a relaxing lunch. **(3 nights)**



**Private visit to the Foundation Ricardo Espirito Santo Silva, with Director Dr. Margarida Serras**, expert in Portuguese fine art. We will discover the world-class collection bequeathed by the late banker Ricardo Espirito Santo Silva, followed by a private visit to the **Conservation and Restoration Department**, one of the oldest in Europe, to see master artisans at work, both housed in the 17th-century **Azurara Palace**.

**Late afternoon at leisure.** Enjoy relaxing at the Pestana Palace Hotel in the gardens, at the pool, the spa, or in your room.



**Private evening reception at the official Residence of the French Ambassador to Portugal.** The Ambassador will welcome us for a memorable evening visit and reception at the **Palácio de Santos**, official residence of the French Ambassador since 1870, dating from the 4th century, just restored, and its splendid gardens, **one of the most stunning and historic embassy residences in Europe**.

Optional dinner in **Pestana's** lavish dining room, the **Vale Flôr**, or in the gardens at the **Lake House**.

#### ***Day 7: Friday, June 20th: Lisbon: From Imperial Capital to the Present***

**Morning: Exceptional Private Visit to one of the most historic Royal Palaces of Portugal, official Residence of a European Ambassador to Portugal.** Thanks to The Ambassador's gracious invitation, we will be privileged with a private visit to this royal, 18th-century palace and its magnificent gardens, very rarely opened to prominent delegations.

**Late Morning: Private visit with the Curator of the António Medeiros e Almeida Collection.** The former residence of a Portuguese magnate and one of Lisbon's most unique museums, we will view this extraordinary collection of decorative arts dating from prehistory to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and enjoy refreshments.

**Lunch at the exclusive Club Grémio Literário.** The president will welcome us for lunch to their elite club, founded by Queen Mary II in 1846, a fine example of Romantic architecture in the heart of Lisbon, with admirable décor and splendid views. The members are amongst the finest Portuguese families.

**Afternoon visit to Lisbon's Belém district, Jerónimos Monastery, and the tower of Belém, UNESCO World Heritage Sites.** Lisbon's wide avenues, graceful architecture and mosaic sidewalks make it one of the world's most beautiful cities. On our tour with our expert lecturer, we will view Lisbon's remarkable monuments.



**Late afternoon at leisure.** Relax at the Pestana Palace Hotel's pool and spa.

**Cocktails at Palácio Belmonte with owners Maria and Frederic Coustols.** Built in 1449 on ancient Roman and Moorish ruins, Palácio Belmonte—a National Monument—is the oldest palace in Lisbon, housing enchanting rooms with 17th-18th-century Azulejo tiles and offering stunning views of Lisbon.

**Fado Dinner at Senhor Vinho.** What can be more appropriate when in Portugal than a relaxed, entertaining dinner at the fabulous Fado club owned by **Fado star Maria da Fé**, with prominent singers, musicians, Azulejo décor, and authentic Portuguese cuisine.



#### ***Day 8: Saturday, June 21st: Ravishing Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site***

**Day trip to Sintra & morning visit to the National Palace of Queluz and gardens**, one of the most remarkable examples in Portugal of the harmonious relation between landscape and palatial architecture. Built in 1747 for the future King Pedro III, a period marked by the Court's taste for baroque, rococo and neoclassicism, the Palace, initially a summer home, became the royal family's permanent residence.

**Lunch at the historic residence, Quinta de São Sebastião, Sintra.** The owner will graciously welcome us to his extraordinary country estate, dating to 1780. We will enjoy lunch while admiring the residence's exquisite interiors, with important artwork, furniture, Azulejo tiles and frescos, and splendid views from the estate's exceptional park.



**Private visit to the National Palace of Sintra.** Our afternoon visit takes us to this extraordinary palace dating to the 10th century, when the Iberian Peninsula was under Islamic rule. Residence of the royal family until 1910, it is decorated with **Portugal's most impressive collection** of early 16th-century Azulejo tiles.



**Farewell dinner at the splendid Palácio of the Marquises of Fronteira.** The Marquis and his family will welcome us, and **guests** who received us in Lisbon, for our farewell dinner. We will enjoy cocktails on the terrace overlooking the stunning gardens and dine in the splendid Battle Room, called the Sistine Chapel of Azjeulos panels, to the strains of Fado musicians, a fitting end to our memorable discovery of "Private Portugal."

**Day 9: Sunday, June 22nd: Departure**

After breakfast we bid our guests "Adeus" with the hope you will return for another exclusive cultural travel program in Europe and beyond.



**Accommodations:**

**June 14th – June 17th, Porto (3 nights)** 5-star luxury hotel and spa **The Yeatman Resort & Spa**, luxuriously and elegantly decorated and set among landscaped gardens with breathtaking views of Porto from the rooms and the two infinity pools. With Porto's best restaurant and Caudélie spa and gym. [www.the-yeatman-hotel.com](http://www.the-yeatman-hotel.com)

**June 17th – June 19th, Évora (2 nights)** 5-star luxury **Pousada de Évora Hotel**, located in the historic center. Once a convent, it is one of Évora's most precious architectural buildings, with beautifully appointed rooms, arched corridors, vaulted ceilings, beautiful gardens and swimming pool. [www.pousadas.pt](http://www.pousadas.pt)

**June 19th – June 22nd, Lisbon (3 nights)** 5-star luxury **Pestana Palace Hotel**, a 19th-century palace classified as a National Monument. Profusely decorated in the French style with artworks, elegant antiques, the Marquises' private quarters have been transformed into beautiful and spacious suites. Views of the hotel's vast gardens can be enjoyed from all royal suites. The grounds also contain a remarkable chapel and swimming pool. [www.pestana.com](http://www.pestana.com)

**Tour Price:** \$7,500 per person double occupancy; \$8,250 single occupancy; plus a fully tax-deductible \$500 contribution to the Institute's Annual Fund. Members at the Contributor or Individual~Professional level (\$150), or higher, are welcome to attend ICAA tours. The tour price is based on 20 participants, maximum 21, and an exchange rate of \$1.35/1 Euro.

**Tour Price Includes:** 8 days of private visits and receptions; 8 nights accommodation in 5-star luxury hotels; 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners; transportation to and from all events in a private coach; all private visits and expert lecturers. All rooms are spacious, elegantly appointed and equipped with wifi and air conditioning.

**To assure availability, please reserve by April 20th. For more information and to reserve:**

Please email Pamela Huntington Darling: [pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com](mailto:pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com) or call (Paris, France):

**Tel. +33 1 45 67 62 81.**

