



Itinerary 1 – The Minho & Douro Wine Regions

Thursday 3rd February – Post Workshop Tour

This tour will show you the north of Portugal at its best, leading you firstly to the region of the **Minho**, the green heart of Portugal where the famous **Alvarinho and Vinho Verde** is produced and secondly, to the spectacular steep-sided terraced valley sides of the **Douro**. Expect some great wines!

Depart from Porto and transfer to Guimarães.

Guimarães holds a very special place in Portuguese affections. It is in this medieval castle that Afonso Henriques was born. Within sight of its high walls, he would defeat the armies of his mother in 1128. Proclaimed heir to the Kingdom of Portugalense by the nobles of the Minho, the Prince, declared of striking beauty in chronicles of the time, would go on to become the first king of Portugal.

Dinner and accommodation at **Pousada Santa Marinha**.

Friday 4th February – Post Workshop Tour

City tour of Guimarães followed by a visit and wine tasting at **Quinta da Aveleda**

Quinta da Aveleda is one of the best known producers of *Vinho Verde*. Visit of the beautiful vineyards and the manor house followed by a wine tasting.

After, we will continue our tour through the green hills of Minho region until we arrive at the beautiful city of **Amarante**. The Tâmega River, running through the heart of this city, perfectly sets off the picturesque rows of houses on either bank as the impressive Marão hills rise in the background.

Lunch In the Restaurant **Zé da Calçada** - a perfect meal made of regional products and accompanied by the best regional wines.

After lunch, the **Douro Valley** will be our next destination. Approximately 45/50 minutes from Amarante to Pinhão.

The Douro valley is spectacularly beautiful with the hills falling steeply down to the water's edge becoming more and more sparsely populated and wild the further inland one travels, with more of the land being given over to terraces of vines and, to a lesser extent, olive groves. This is port country and was, in fact, the world's first demarcated wine region being established



in 1756. Evidence of the port industry can be seen along the valley with all the famous company names - Cockburns, Taylors, Sandeman and others - appearing on large placards on the hillsides.



The colour of the land changes throughout the year as the vines mature. February and March though also see the almond trees in blossom, particularly in the upper reaches, creating blankets of pink-white everywhere which, with fine weather, brings the Portuguese out for the first picnic of the year.

Arrival at **Pinhão or Regua** and check in at the **CS Vintage House or Aqua Pura Hotel**.



Free time until dinner. Dinner at the **Restaurant Douro In**, a well known place with a very charming atmosphere.

Saturday 5th February – Post Workshop Tour



A visit to the Douro Wine Museum in the morning which is very nicely set up will give you a good insight in the century old winemaking tradition of this area. Afterwards we shall be hosted at one of the many famous wineries of the Area: **Quinta do Crasto**, **Quinta do Vallado**, **Quinta do Cotto**, **Niepoort**. These wineries are all situated in the area of Regua and Pinhão. Quinta do Crasto, Niepoort and Vallado belong to the Douro Boys, 5 young and dynamic producers that brought fresh wind and modernisation to the Douro Valley. We shall taste the nicest wines in one of those and have lunch in another one.



After lunch we continue on to Sabrosa to visit **Quinta do Portal**: this property has been listed amongst the 100 best wine producers in the world by the Wine Spectator magazine and was moreover given the Best of Wine Tourism Award.



Their nice guesthouse **Casa Das Pipas** where Olive Oil depots were transformed into guestrooms is a very interesting concept and well worth a visit. In the late afternoon we shall start our journey back to Porto via the Vila Real Highway which will get us back in an hour or so.



Overnight in one of the spacious Hotels of Avenida da Boavista, the Porto Palácio or Sheraton, which will show you yet another part of Porto, the business district. Late farewell dinner in one of the fancy restaurants of this area, F.E. l'Fresco, Enjoy !

Sunday 6th February – Post Workshop Tour

Morning check-out and transfer to Porto Airport .