



## LUXURY WINE TOUR TO PORTUGAL

The Great Lodges & Quintas of the Douro Valley & Vinho Verde

SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> 2025

— Hosted by Colin Gent MW —

US \$4,995 *per person*

Join us on a spectacular tour to the majestic vineyards of Portugal's Douro Valley. From the timeless ageing cellars of Vila Nova de Gaia to the UNESCO world heritage site vineyards, you will be welcomed at the top Port houses, served unique wines mellowed by decades of ageing, accompanied by fine food and breathtaking views. You will also discover the best of Douro light wines as well as the fresh wines of Vinho Verde.

Over 5-days of luxury, you will travel in comfort and style, staying in 5-star hotels and eating in the best restaurants with scenic excursions by boat and by train. All the while, you will be hosted by Colin Gent MW, a British Master of Wine with a deep knowledge and passion for the region and its spectacular wines.

### COME AND DISCOVER

**ILLUSTRIOUS PORT LODGES** in historic Vila Nova de Gaia with visits to **Taylor's**, **Kopke** and a lunch at **Graham's**. We will also have an unforgettable dinner at Taylor's renowned **Fladgate Barao** restaurant.

**VIBRANT VINHO VERDE** with the underrated, refreshing wines of **Quinta da Avelada**.

**GRAPE TREADING** at Quinta da Roeda: this is such fun!

**QUINTESSENTIAL QUINTAS** of the Douro Valley with visits to **Quinta do Vesuvio**, and the iconic **Quinta do Noval** as well as private meals hosted by **Quinta de la Rosa**, **Quinta da Gricha**, and **Quinta do Bomfim**.

**SCENIC EXCURSIONS** with an evening cruise on the Douro in Vila Nova de Gaia and a train ride to the remote reaches of the Upper Douro.

**5-STAR ACCOMMODATIONS** at the **Yeatman Hotel** in Vila Nova de Gaia and the **Vintage House** in Pinhão in the heart of the Douro Valley.



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## YOUR HOST

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### COLIN GENT MW

Colin became a Master of Wine in 2003 is the lead lecturer in the Wine Business Masters programs at Kedge Business School. He previously worked for the Bordeaux-based wine broker Europvin with such illustrious estates as E. Guigal, Vega Sicilia, and Emilio Lustau sheries. He provides sales and marketing consultancy services to importers and exporters alike, as well as offering high-end wine education and wine tourism.

Colin is an accomplished public speaker and expert taster, having hosted seminars, masterclasses, and dinners all over the world. His greatest pleasure is sharing his knowledge and passion for wine, and the history, the geography and culture that shape it. You are in expert hands when traveling with Colin.

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## PRICE

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### US \$4,995 per person

The price includes 2 nights accommodations in each the Yeatman Hotel in Vila Nova and the Vintage House in Pinhão, all meals mentioned in the itinerary, superb wines at all meals, all winery visits and tastings, local transport, and all taxes & gratuities. Transportation to and from Vila Nova de Gaia, items of a personal nature, and travel insurance are not included. We recommend that you contact your travel agent to arrange travel insurance.

There is a US\$750 supplement for single travelers for a single occupancy hotel room.

Deposit at booking: \$250 non-refundable administration booking fee.

120 days from start: Remaining deposit (plus single supplement if applicable).



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## ITINERARY | DAY 1

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### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – WELCOME RECEPTION IN VILA NOVA DE GAIA

Please make your own travel arrangements to Porto. We will meet in the lobby of the luxurious 5-star **Yeatman Hotel** in Vila Nova de Gaia, which sits across the Douro River from Porto. Considered one of the finest hotels in Portugal, the Yeatman Hotel will be your home base for the first 2 nights of the tour.

The Yeatman Hotel

Rua do Choupelo, 4400-088

Vila Nova de Gaia

[www.the-yeatman-hotel.com](http://www.the-yeatman-hotel.com) Tel: +351-222-013-3100

### 2.00 PM – INTRODUCTION AND TUTORED TASTING OF DIFFERENT PORT STYLES

No need to worry about confusing your LBVs with your tawnies, Colin Gent MW will guide you through the essential styles. Following a meet and greet, take your seats for a gentle warm-up information session, focusing on Port, its long history, and an explanation of the different styles, all illustrated with a tasting of some classic examples.

### TAYLOR'S PORT LODGE

A quick walk from the hotel brings us to one of the most illustrious “lodges” in Vila Nova. Lodges are the historic wine cellar complexes where young Ports – freshly arrived from their wineries upriver in the Douro – are laid down for ageing in barrel. The cooler, more humid climate here is much more conducive to slow qualitative ageing than in the hot, dry high Douro Valley. The Taylors cellars are 300 years old, and all their best Ports are aged here. The tour will take in the extensive cellars with, of course, a tasting.

[www.taylor.pt/en/port-wine-vineyards/lodges-cellar](http://www.taylor.pt/en/port-wine-vineyards/lodges-cellar)

### WELCOME DINNER AT BARAO FLADGATE RESTAURANT

Without having to leave the Taylor's Port Lodge, we move from the tasting to our welcome dinner in the excellent house restaurant. As well as great food and wines plucked from the adjacent cellars, the restaurant features magnificent views over the river to Porto. A beautiful setting to make friends with your travel companions for the week ahead. [www.baraofladgate.com](http://www.baraofladgate.com)



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## ITINERARY | DAY 2

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### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> – THE LODGES OF VILA NOVA DE GAIA

#### 10.00 am – Depart Hotel

A short ride down the hill to our first lodge of the day

#### GRAHAM'S PORT LODGE

We will be welcomed to the 1890 Lodge where the ports are slumbering during their long ageing process. Naturally there will be a tasting before we have a special lunch in their Vinum restaurant, which has a wonderful view of the river. The chef uses ingredients from local producers and fish from the cold Atlantic to produce a menu for us, which is paired with a great selection of wines. [www.grahams-port.com](http://www.grahams-port.com)

#### KOPKE PORT LODGE

The third of our trio of Port Lodges, Kopke is actually the oldest of all Port companies, dating its creation back to 1638. The house is known for its specialization in small quantities of rare, extra-long aged Ports, including an extraordinary range of historic single vintage dated tawnies, called *colheitas*. If you have never experienced this style of Port, you are in for a real treat! And they serve them with chocolate...!! [www.kopke1638.com](http://www.kopke1638.com)

#### PRIVATE RIVER CRUISE

After so much sensory overload, what better way to relax than a late afternoon boat trip. Cruising gently upriver, we pass under the famous Dom Luis Bridge, which was designed by Gustave Eiffel, who famously also built the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty. As we return, we can observe the bustling Porto quayside from the comfort of our boat, before heading back to the Vila Nova side.

#### FREE EVENING

We return to the Yeatman at around 7.00 pm. Tonight is a free evening to relax and explore the restaurants and tasting bars of Vila Nova de Gaia.



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## ITINERARY | DAY 3

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> – VINHO VERDE & PINHÃO

#### 09.00 am – Depart Hotel

Please be checked out and ready because the next stage of the adventure involves some traveling. Fortunately, we have a perfect opportunity to break the journey halfway and sample the light, vibrant wines of Vinho Verde.

#### QUINTA DA AVELEDA

Aveleda is the leading producer of Vinho Verde. Light in alcohol with a hint of spritz, these are unique and wonderfully refreshing wines. Aveleda is also a magical place to visit, an elegant country house dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A stroll through the beautiful historic gardens offers a moment of enchantment before we continue on to the Douro Valley.

[www.aveleda.com/en/wine-tourism/quinta-da-aveleda#](http://www.aveleda.com/en/wine-tourism/quinta-da-aveleda#)

#### QUINTA DE LA ROSA

We arrive just in time for lunch, which is fortunate because the restaurant here – Cozinha de Clara – is one of the best in the region. Quinta de la Rosa is a boutique, family-owned estate, the first of its kind to commercialize its own production rather than sell to the big shippers. As well as a full range of Ports, the estate makes excellent “table wines” (classic dry wines with no extra fortification), under the direction of star winemaker, Jorge Moreira. [www.quintadelarosa.com](http://www.quintadelarosa.com)

#### QUINTA DA ROEDA

We now have the opportunity for a wonderful hands-on, or rather feet-on, experience: grape treading in the traditional *lagares*! Still today, foot treading is considered to be the best way of extracting colour and tannins for the finest ports. Shorts and t-shirts are provided and dancing is encouraged! Grape stomping is huge fun!

Rest assured you will also visit the vineyards, taste a line-up of six Croft ports and be refreshed with a glass of Croft Pink & tonic. <https://croftport.com/pt/quinta-da-roeda-enoturismo/>

#### VINTAGE HOUSE HOTEL PINHÃO

Our hotel for nights 3 and 4, rated 5-star for comfort this is simply one of the most charming and idyllic sites you could imagine, with delightful terraces overlooking the river. Our plan is for a casual evening of light food and drink on the terrace ... unless Colin can find us some freshly picked grapes needing a foot treading, in which case there may be an optional work excursion! [www.vintagehousehotel.com](http://www.vintagehousehotel.com)



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## ITINERARY | DAY 4

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### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – PINHÃO

#### 10.00 am – Depart Hotel

All the best pilgrimages start with a climb up the hill. This one we will do from the comfort of our luxury bus.

#### QUINTA DO NOVAL

This is the estate all Port lovers dream of visiting, the unofficial ‘Premier Grand Cru Classé’ of Douro estates. Home of the legendary Quinta do Noval Nacional, the entire range of Ports is simply mind-blowing, and there is now a range of outstanding table wines being made here too. Even the olive oil here is sensational! [www.quintadonoval.com](http://www.quintadonoval.com)

#### QUINTA DA GRICHA

Gricha belongs to Churchill’s, an independent Port company established a generation ago by Johnny Graham. The Gricha estate provides the best grapes for Churchill’s famously drier style of Ports, as well as for their highly-regarded table wines. It is also an amazing place to visit, with breathtaking views in all directions. An informal al-fresco lunch out amongst the vines here provides a truly memorable experience, a moment of bliss in the middle of a great day. [www.drinkchurchills.com](http://www.drinkchurchills.com)

#### QUINTA DO BOMFIM

Back to Pinhão for our last stop, Quinta do Bomfim, home to the famous Dow’s Port brand. The vineyards here cling to terraces on steep slopes overlooking the river, providing a photogenic backdrop to the house and gardens. The welcome is always warm here, the wines delicious, naturally. The whole estate exudes quiet refinement and elegance. [www.symington.com/visitar/quinta-do-bomfim](http://www.symington.com/visitar/quinta-do-bomfim)

#### FINAL DINNER AT RESTAURANT BOMFIM 1896

The perfect setting for our Gala Dinner. Chef Pedro Lemos’ restaurant is as refined and elegant as the rest of the Bomfim facilities, and the food is the best in the region. There are sure to be some special wines too, so be ready to enjoy! [www.symington.com/bomfim1896-pedrolemos](http://www.symington.com/bomfim1896-pedrolemos).



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## ITINERARY | DAY 5

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### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> – UPPER DOURO

#### 10.30 AM – DEPART HOTEL

Be sure to have checked out by departure time and have your luggage ready for storage at the hotel. It is a 5 minute walk to the train station, but we will return briefly to the hotel before heading back to Porto & Vila Nova de Gaia.

#### TRAIN TO THE UPPER DOURO

For many years, the entire Douro region was accessible only by boat or train, and even now the train is the most practical – as well as the most scenic – way to access the wild, mountainous lands beyond Pinhão. Upper Douro is the name given to the easternmost of the 3 districts within the Douro demarcated zone. Hotter and drier than the Cima Corgo, this is where the fullest-bodied and most powerful Ports come from. There are only a handful of trains per day, but a couple of famous Port lodges actually have their own train stations (where else in the world...?), and it would be a shame to miss out on visiting this grandiose landscape.

#### QUINTA DO VESUVIO

This is actually the family home of the Symington clan, who own and assure day-to-day management of Graham's, Warre's, Dow's, Cockburn's, and a host of other historic Port brands. Located in splendid isolation on a bend of the river, below towering rock escarpments, the fine 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings still house a functioning traditional press room, where teams of treaders stomp the grapes in shallow open granite *lagares*. The combination of concentrated grapes from the steep vineyards plus the traditional pressing by foot make Vesuvio wines and Ports some of the darkest, richest, and most intense you can find. The Symingtons are always very welcoming hosts, so we will be beyond royally wined, dined, and entertained before it is time to start our journey home. [www.symington.com/winery/vesuvio-winery](http://www.symington.com/winery/vesuvio-winery)

#### RETURN TO PORTO & VILA NOVA

All good things have to come to an end, but we do get to ride the train again back to Pinhão before the bus takes us on the last leg, dropping guests first off at the Yeatman in Vila Nova and on to Porto airport by 7.30pm. The exact timings are subject to the Portuguese train schedules, to be confirmed in early 2025.

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**Price: \$4,995 US (including non-refundable deposit of \$250) per person based on double occupancy.**

**There is a \$750 US per person single supplement.**

**Space is limited to 20.**

It will be a great trip with lots of fine wine, great food, amazing chateaux, a luxury hotel, a nice amount of wine education and many, many laughs. If you have any questions, please email us at [info@finevintageltd.com](mailto:info@finevintageltd.com).

[www.FineVintageLtd.com](http://www.FineVintageLtd.com)

