



PORTUGAL: “a treasure trove of indigenous grape varieties.”

The Douro Valley & Lodges of Oporto

A delightful wine tour with BEN HOWKINS & Amelia Dalton



We will taste wines created by the historic family producers of the **Douro Valley** and our dining will vary to suit the locality, with special invitations to dine as private guests of the **Symington family** and at the prestigious **Factory House**, plus a luxurious **Michelin starred dinner**. We cruise the picturesque twists and turns of the **Douro river** by traditional boat and explore the charming streets of **Oporto** and **Lamego**. Our upriver hotel gazes across the romantic **River Douro**, whilst the sumptuous **Yeatman Hotel** in **Oporto** cascades down the river bank between the old warehouses providing spectacular city views.

Ben Howkins, witty and knowledgeable, will be our guru.

*Awarded the Vintner’s Scholarship in 1963 making him the youngest person to receive the award, he is a member of the **Confraria do Vinho do Porto**. Using his many contacts he will open otherwise-closed cellar doors, introduce us to his friends and wine makers as well as educate our palates on the many Portuguese varietals.*

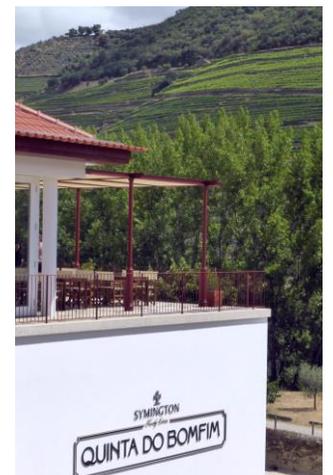


With the oldest appellation system in the world, wine was almost certainly introduced to Portugal by the Phoenicians and was traded long before the Romans arrived.

The Douro Valley produces some of the world's finest and most intense wines with grape varieties differing from those in near-by Spain. The vineyards are impressive: gnarled

old vines give small yields, rich and complex, plus the area is becoming increasingly known for rich unfortified table wines both red and white.

We start our visit in the UNESCO listed **DOURO VALLEY** at the little settlement of **PINHÃO**, tucked into the north bank of the river, our base will be the river-side **Vintage House hotel**. Our first visit will be to **QUINTA DO BOMFIN** and to dine by special invitation at the **SYMINGTON'S FAMILY HOUSE**. Next morning to nearby **QUINTA DE LA ROSA**, to experience their range of wines and olive oil, before lunch in their traditional buildings. An afternoon cruising the Douro river by **traditional boat**, takes us along this delightful stretch of the river where the vineyards rise steeply on either bank and the quintas dot the hillsides. En route to **OPORTO** we drop in on the historic town of **LAMEGO**, centre of *Raposeira* - Portugal's answer to champagne. As the site of Portugal's first parliament, the town has a rich history, a typically tiled flight of stairs, an interesting museum and a cathedral with charming cloisters. Staying at the luxurious **Yeatman Hotel**, in **OPORTO** we dine in their stunning **Michelin starred restaurant**, before next day exploring the town with our guide. Next morning we visit **RAMOS PINTO** to taste both port and table wines, before our final **highly privileged dinner**, organised by special arrangement at the 18th century **FACTORY HOUSE**, we have drinks in the Drawing Room and see the Library before dining in the traditional dining room.



ITINERARY OUTLINE:

Day 1: Thurs 14th April: PINHAO

Transfer * from Oporto airport to Vintage House, **Pinhao** (2 nights)
Walk to **QUINTA DO BOMFIN** for Port Tasting followed by private dinner at the **SYMINGTON FAMILY HOUSE**

Day 2: Friday 15th April: PINHAO

Transfer to nearby **Quinta de la Rosa**: **tasting, visit & lunch**.
Afternoon **cruise the Douro River** by traditional boat, returning to the quay adjacent to the hotel for an evening a leisure to explore Pinhao.

Day 3: Saturday 16th April: PINHAO – OPORTO

Transfer to nearby small historic town of **Lamego**, free time to explore, visit the Museum and have lunch. Early afternoon continue to **Oporto**. Check into **Yeatman Hotel** (3 nights).

Wine Tasting & dinner in the hotel's **Michelin starred** restaurant.

Day 4: Sunday 17th April: OPORTO

Morning free time. After lunch, meet our guide and transfer to city. Visit *Museu Nacional, Se and Cloisters*. Ending at approx. 17.00 at the *Ribeira* riverside area opposite the Yeatman Hotel.

Day 5: Monday 18th April: OPORTO

Morning visit to **Ramos Pinto (tbc)**. Afternoon at leisure.
Early evening transfer to **FACTORY HOUSE** for **private visit & dinner**.

Day 6: Tuesday 19th April:

Check out of the Yeatman after breakfast & transfer to airport.

APRIL 14th – 19th 2016

Deposit £300pp / Balance in Eur 2,560 per person, based on 2 sharing
Single supplement Eur 565 (charged by Yeatman Hotel)

Cost includes:

- accommodation in hotels mentioned (or similar quality) including breakfast daily, taxes and service charges
- meals as mentioned (2 Lunches, 3 Dinners,) with ½ bottle of wine pp per meal
- tastings, entrance fees and visits as mentioned in the itinerary, or similar if unforeseen circumstances dictate.
- transfers from and to Oporto airport connecting only with the flights below
- private transport & river cruise as mentioned in the itinerary
- gratuities to restaurants, guides and drivers
- services of wine expert & tour leader

Cost does NOT include:

- arrival at and departure from Oporto airport.
- items of a personal nature, e.g. spa treatments / laundry.
- travel insurance.
- meals and transport unless specified in the itinerary
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication on 28/04/2015

FLIGHTS; the cost does not include flights, but I am happy to help. The transfers will link with the direct flights below which Ben and I will be taking with TAP airlines, costing £124.00 pp Econ return inc.1 piece luggage (on 02/07/15)

OUT: 14th April ETD 11.50 TAP 331 Gatwick / ETA 14.10 Porto

RETURN: 19th April ETD 08.50 TAP 334 Porto / ETA 11.00 Gatwick

