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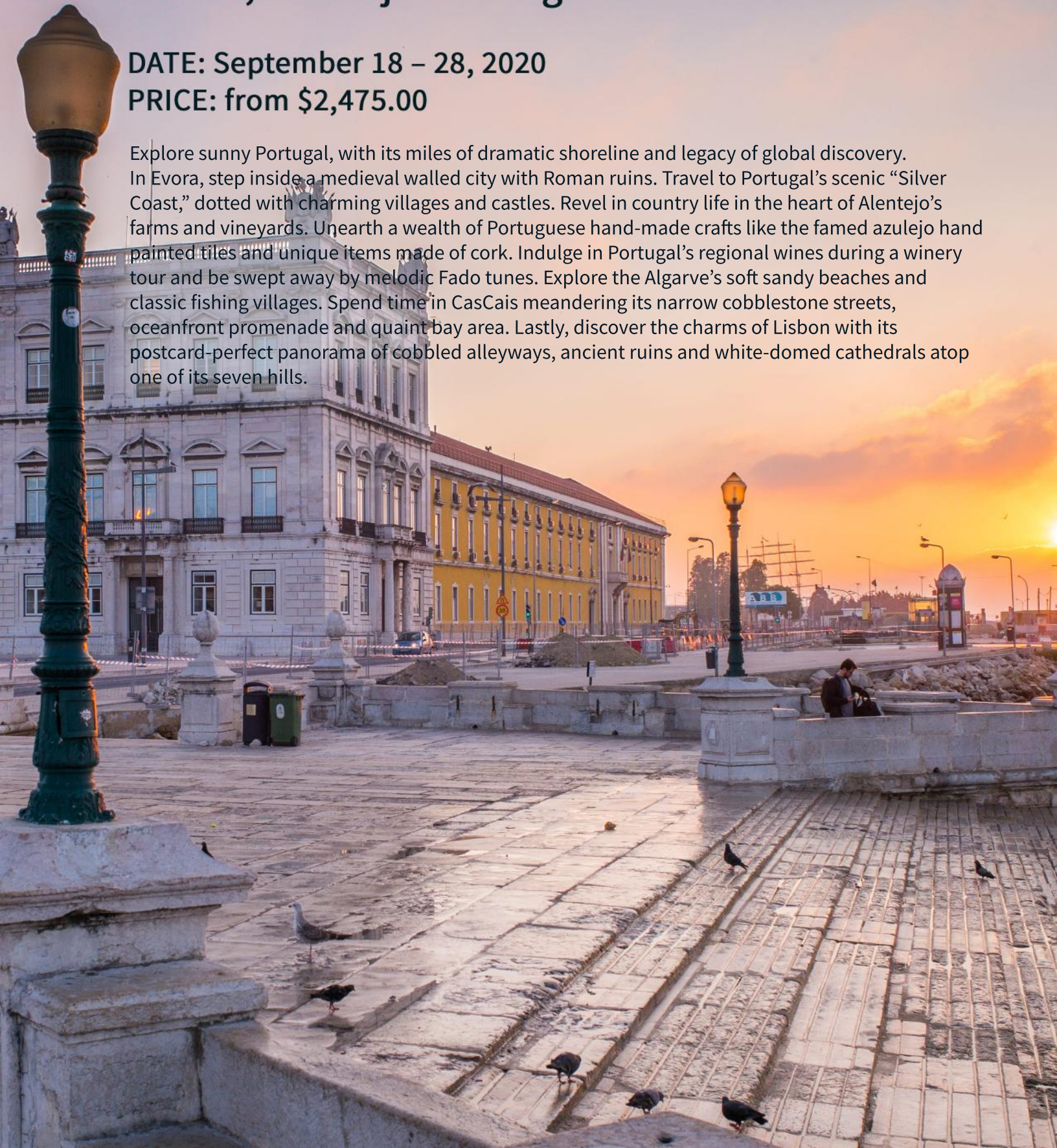
Best of sunny Portugal

Estoril, Alentejo and Algarve

DATE: September 18 – 28, 2020

PRICE: from \$2,475.00

Explore sunny Portugal, with its miles of dramatic shoreline and legacy of global discovery. In Evora, step inside a medieval walled city with Roman ruins. Travel to Portugal's scenic "Silver Coast," dotted with charming villages and castles. Revel in country life in the heart of Alentejo's farms and vineyards. Unearth a wealth of Portuguese hand-made crafts like the famed azulejo hand painted tiles and unique items made of cork. Indulge in Portugal's regional wines during a winery tour and be swept away by melodic Fado tunes. Explore the Algarve's soft sandy beaches and classic fishing villages. Spend time in CasCais meandering its narrow cobblestone streets, oceanfront promenade and quaint bay area. Lastly, discover the charms of Lisbon with its postcard-perfect panorama of cobbled alleyways, ancient ruins and white-domed cathedrals atop one of its seven hills.



Porto

Porto is a coastal city in northwest Portugal known for its stately bridges and port wine production. In the medieval Ribeira (riverside) district, narrow cobbled streets wind past merchants' houses and cafes. Sao Francisco Church is known for its lavish baroque interior with ornate gilded carvings. The palatial 19th-century Palacio de Bolsa, formerly a stock market, was built to impress potential European investors.

Porto gives you as much cobbled-street charm and dazzling ancient architecture as you'll get anywhere else in Europe, and it's nestled in one of the world's leading wine regions — yet it's still affordable and uncrowded. The city gets much of its character from Spain and North Africa — the signature azulejo blue tiles, which you'll see adorning many of the buildings, have Moorish roots. It's also one of the best places in Europe to see medieval architecture; Portugal stayed neutral during World War II and was never bombed, so you'll find that the sorts of fortresses you're used to seeing only as ruins are still intact.

HOTEL:

Carris Porto Ribeira 4* Hotel

Situated in Porto's historic Ribeira district, the hotel is on a pretty cobblestone street and is just up the street from Ribeira Plaza. There are plenty of things to see and do in the local area, from boat tours on the river, a traditional fruit market, and many different bars and restaurants. The property is ideally situated for tourists wanting to see the main sights of Porto on foot. Just a five-minute walk away are many historic sights. The Carris Porto Ribeira hotel is partially set in a medieval fourteenth century building which has been carefully refurbished. The property is appealing to those who have an interest in history and architecture, as many original features still remain. It is said that parts of the building's basement were used as prison cells in medieval times, and that the area now used as a tapas bar was once a chapel. The lobby and public areas of the hotel are now a stunning blend of history and modern design.



Alentejo Region

The Alentejo is a geographical, historical and cultural region of south central and southern Portugal. In Portuguese, its name means "beyond the Tagus river". Visitors of the Alentejo Region are at first taken by surprise by the remarkable traces of successive cultures: dolmens and cromlechs, Roman and Arab vestiges mingling with the most recent signs of Christianity, exemplified by the numerous medieval castles that stand out in the vast plain. A region of sun-baked olive groves, fortified towns and traditional villages, all of which are a joy to explore from Evora. Evora and the Alentejo offer a truly unique Portuguese experience, with a distinctive heritage, delicious regional cuisines and an infectious unhurried pace of life.

HOTEL:

M'AR de Ar Muralhas 4* Hotel In Evora

Hotel MAR De AR Muralhas is located in the historic center of Evora, right in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, within a 5-minute walk of the well-known Giraldo Square, the nerve center of this magnificent city and capital of the kingdom during the early years of the 16th century. With perfect accessibility and a privileged location, MAR De AR Muralhas benefits from a large garden area framed by the historic wall that provides an environment of incomparable beauty, particularly when it lights up at nightfall. Benefiting from this unique setting is the pool area, the BAR Muralhas esplanade, with a highly comfortable seating area, takes full advantage of the famous Alentejo nights and the planetarium that forms above our heads.



Algarve Region

Although equal in beauty to neighboring Mediterranean mainstays like Majorca and St.-Tropez, the Algarve is still enjoying relative obscurity but with glittering new resorts popping up along the coastline, a handful of Michelin-starred restaurants, and a delicious type of wine you won't find anywhere else, it's only a matter of time before that's no longer the case. Beaches are the biggest draw, with more than 150 rolling out their wide, golden shores like welcome mats. Many are bordered by craggy rock cliffs and caves for an extra photogenic effect. Some 300 to 350 indigenous varieties of grapes grow in Portugal, and as a result, you can toss a cork in any direction and hit a bottle of delicious, locally produced wine. Negra Mole grapes, however, grow exclusively in the Algarve, and they're used to produce a gentle, drinkable red that hits the palate like a Pinot Noir.

HOTEL:

Tivoli Marina Portimao

Tivoli Marina Portimao is a 4 star resort with a privileged location next to the Portimao Marina and Praia da Rocha in Algarve, Portugal. This hotel is perfect for spending a holiday with friends or family and is right next to shops, restaurants and entertainment including water sports and golf.

The spacious studios and holiday apartments in Algarve are divided across three buildings: the Marina Sun, Marina Deck and Marina Beach, all within walking distance from all the hotel's services including 3 pools (one for children) and restaurants and bars inside the resort.



Lisbon

Lisbon is Portugal's hilly, coastal capital city. From imposing Sao Jorge Castle, the view encompasses the old city's pastel-colored buildings, Tagus Estuary and Ponte 25 de Abril suspension bridge. Nearby, the National Azulejo Museum displays 5 centuries of decorative ceramic tiles. Just outside Lisbon is a string of Atlantic beaches, from Cascais to Estoril. Lisbon is one of the most charismatic and vibrant cities of Europe. It is a city that effortlessly blends traditional heritage, with striking modernism and progressive thinking. As a holiday destination, Lisbon offers a rich and varied history, a buzzing nightlife, delicious and affordable food, some of the best wines and is blessed with a glorious year-round climate.



HOTEL:

My Story 4* Hotel

This comfortable hotel is located in the city of Lisbon. My Story Hotel Charming Augusta has 46 rooms and was built in 2018 in the most iconic street of Lisbon: the Rua Augusta. Sleep in the heart of the Portuguese capital, in waling distance to every main attraction and activity in the city center.



Cascais

Cascais, a formerly quaint fishing village that became (along with neighboring Estoril) a popular resort favored by European nobility and kings in the early 20th century. Today, it's a colorful cosmopolitan town with elegant pedestrian streets, luxuriant villas, fashionable shops, restaurants and bars. Elements of its fishing village roots can still be felt at the lively fish auction that takes place every afternoon by the main beach and its brightly painted fishing boats, and the story of old Cascais is told by old photographs, paintings, and other items at the small "Museu do Mar" (Museum of the Sea).



Sintra

Considered not only one of the wonders of Portugal but indeed of Europe, Sintra is truly a gem. Once the royal town of the country, it now deservedly holds UNESCO world heritage status and attracts hordes of visitors throughout the year. Its unusual geography, nestled in a stretch of hills surrounded on all sides by plain, estuary or ocean, and its subsequent climate, which is perhaps more typical of Northern Europe, create a verdant paradise where ornate palaces lie hidden behind tall trees and walled gardens, history abounds and romantics feel that they have at last found their nirvana. Hans Christian Anderson found inspiration here, describing Sintra as the "most beautiful place in Portugal" and Lord Byron during his time here christened it his "glorious Eden". However, perhaps the most distinguished homage is paid by Portugal's national poet, Luis de Camoes, in his epic poem *Os Lusíadas*.





Porto Wine Tasting

Port Wine is born in the Douro Valley, but it is the city of Porto that gives the name to the wine. Why? Because that's where the wine ages and is shipped from to all over the world. A visit to the Port wine cellars is a mandatory activity during any trip to Porto! Not only will you receive a tasting of different Port wine varieties, but you will also learn about the history of the house you are visiting and a broader history of Port wine.

Picnic in the Vineyard

Imagine yourself breathing that fresh air, relaxing in nature among the vineyards, with a glass filled with the best of Portuguese wines and a delicious lunch.

Monte da Ravasqueira is a wine estate in Alentejo, covering a vast area of the typical Alentejo landscape. You will visit the vineyards, winery and cellar and taste some of the best wines the region has to offer.





Fado Show and Dinner

The musical form of fado was adopted as a part of Portuguese culture and is now a symbol of the nation, with a particularly strong tradition in the historic districts of Lisbon. The 50-minute show features talented artists. 2 singers and 2 musicians, playing the Portuguese guitar and classical guitar respectively. It is said that fado combines nostalgia, Portuguese pride, and hope, in a musical style epitomized by Amalia Rodrigues. Due to its cultural importance and unique style this musical form was declared part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

Cork Farm Tour

Immerse yourself in the world of cork on this one of a kind guided tour. First, we theoretically learn the cork process from tree to finished product. Then, visit the traditional cork factory to see the process up close and finally a visit the cork shop to see unique items made from the material.



Included:

- 9 night accommodations in 4* hotel with breakfast
- Welcome and Farewell dinners with half a bottle wine per person in local restaurants / wine houses
- All Transfers
- 2 Group dinners at hotel Tivoli in Portimao
- Vineyard picnic lunch with wine in beautiful countryside estate
- Tuk Tuk 2 hour tour in Lisbon
- English speaking guide service
- Entrance fees at the following monuments: Serralves Park / PortoBones Chapel / Evora Cork House / Evora Royal Palace / Sintra
- Visit and wine tasting in a wine cellar in Porto
- One Hour boat trip on the Douro river
- Visit and wine tasting in historic estate in Azeitao
- Audio guide during the visits mentioned at the program
- Porterage (1 bag per person)
- 1 water per person/day
- Tour Manager throughout the tour 2 group Dinners at hotel in Portimao

Not Included:

- International or domestic flights
- Optional activities
- Lisbon and Porto city tax: € 2 per person/night payable at check out
- Personal expenses
- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the program
- Tips
- Other services not mentioned in the program



Itinerary

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 - WELCOME TO PORTUGAL! ARRIVAL IN PORTO

Arrival at Porto airport and transfer to the hotel. Welcome drink at the hotel and some free time to unwind or walk around the beautiful Ribeira neighborhood near the hotel. Dinner in local restaurant with local house wine. Overnight in Porto.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 - PORTO

Breakfast at the hotel. With a magnificent location near the mouth of the Douro and an architectonic ensemble of exceptional value, the historic center of Porto is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will visit the 12th century Cathedral (visit to the cloisters is not included), the Church of Sao Francisco (whose interior is covered with gold) is one of the most remarkable examples of Portuguese Baroque. Also discover other important places, such as the Lello Bookstore, the Majestic Cafe and the magnificent Sao Bento Station. Free time for lunch. We then continue heading for the Serralves Park which extends from the House of Serralves on 18 hectares including gardens, forests, a rose garden and a romantic lake which are a great refuge for those who want to a short escape from the city. The day ends with a visit to a Port Wine Cellar to taste this fortified wine and with a 50 minute boat trip on the Douro river. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Porto.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 - PORTO | COIMBRA | TOMAR | EVORA

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. We descend to the village of Coimbra. A city that rises scenically from the Rio Mondego. It was Portugal's medieval capital for more than a century and it's home to the country's oldest and most prestigious university. Its steeply stacked historic center dates to Moorish times and is wonderfully atmospheric, with its dark cobbled lanes and monumental cathedral. On summer evenings, the city's old stone walls reverberate with the haunting metallic notes of the guitarra (Portuguese guitar) and the full, deep voices of fado singers. Stroll in the oldest part of Coimbra, made of narrow and steep streets that lead to the top of the hill. Continue to Tomar, a templar town with Convento de Cristo (exterior). Spend some free time to browse the area. Lunch today is included at wonderful traditional 18th century wine estate where you will get to tour the vineyards, the cellar and have a delicious picnic with the best wine in the region. Evening at leisure.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 - EVORA

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit of Evora, a World Heritage Site. One of Portugal's most beautifully preserved medieval towns, Evora is an enchanting place to delve into the past. Inside the 14th-century walls, Evora's narrow, winding lanes lead to striking architectural works: an elaborate medieval cathedral and cloisters; the cinematic columns of the Templo Romano (near the intriguing Roman baths); and a picturesque town square, once the site of some rather gruesome episodes courtesy of the Inquisition. Aside from its historic and aesthetic virtues, Evora is also a lively university town, and its many attractive restaurants serve up hearty Alentejan cuisine. While in Evora, we will visit a cork factory to learn more about the national tree of Portugal and this ecological product. On this tour, you will discover traditional processes, how cork is selected, and all its possible applications. Rest of the day is at leisure.



SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 - EVORA | BEJA | ALBUFEIRA | PORTIMAO

This morning check out and depart for Beja, capital of the region of Lower Alentejo known by its former convent of Our Lady of Conception. This place of worship takes on particular importance within the history of art in the south of Portugal as it is considered to be one of the great examples of the late-Gothic architectural style to be found across the Alentejo and the first national interpretation of a style that would become known as the "Manueline style". In the cloisters, on the south side of the church, there are some fine examples of 16th century tiling from Seville, as well as from the 17th and 18th centuries. Together, they represent an educational insight into the development of this decorative form in Portugal. Upon arrival in Algarve, your first stop will be in Albufeira for some free time for shopping. Albufeira is the largest, liveliest and most energetic of all of the resort towns that line southern Portugal's beautiful Algarve coastline. Albufeira provides stunning beaches, a glorious climate, varied eating and a buzzing nightlife. There is so much to love about Albufeira, and this is why this once peaceful fishing village has been transformed into the Algarve's most popular holiday destination. Group Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Portimao.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 - PORTIMÃO | LAGOS | SAGRES | PORTIMAO

Breakfast at the hotel. Full day discovery of the western Algarve region: Portimao is the biggest town in the western Algarve and sits on the bank of the Arade river facing Ferragudo on the opposite bank. Portimao's atlantic beach of Praia da Rocha has, over the years, become a resort in it's own right with lots of hotels and apartments, restaurants and bars, discos and clubs and shops. Portimão is a mix of late 19th, early 20th century buildings in the older part of the town, and high rise apartment blocks in various pastel shades of blue, pink and coral around it. Lagos is a busy coastal town in the Algarve that has all the things people love about the region. There are beaches of all descriptions, from long sandy bays to tiny coves walled by ochre-colored cliffs. These rocks create a breathtaking scene at Ponta da Piedade, where the bluffs and obelisks are riddled with caves and arches and the sea is a clear emerald color. Back in the center of Lagos the old town is an exploring heaven, with Portuguese pavement in lovely patterns on its streets and sights that transport you to the Age of Discovery when explorers set sail from the port. Group dinner and accommodation at the hotel in Portimao.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 - PORTIMAO | AZEITAO | LISBON

Breakfast at the hotel and we continue north to Lisbon with a stop in Azeitao. Situated in the Nature Reserve of the Serra da Arrábida, the Azeitão area includes various characteristic villages, in particular Vila Fresca and Vila Nogueira, which adopted the names of the quintas (country houses/estates) around which they developed. A visit to Azeitão also provides the opportunity to taste the excellent regional products, such as the cheeses, the famous tarts and the wines, in particular the table wines made from Periquita grapes, and the Moscatel of Setubal. This afternoon visit the estate of Jose Maria da Fonseca, one of Portugal's largest and most prestigious wine companies, begun in 1834 and run with undiminished passion since that date by the same family. The winery is in the charming village of Vila Nogueira de Azeitao, where visitors are welcome to tour the museum and cellars where many of Fonseca's wines are aged, including Periquita, Portugal oldest red table wine as well as the Moscatel of Setubal, a famous desert wine. Continue the journey to Lisbon for late afternoon arrival. Optional Fado show and dinner this evening.



SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 - LISBON | SINTRA | CASCAIS | ESTORIL

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure towards Sintra, a magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site. Discover the charms and history of the town that enchanted kings and poets. Visit to Sintra's Royal Palace. If the weather allows, we will stop at the western point of mainland Europe, Cabo da Roca, a wild and rugged headland that marks the most westerly point of mainland Europe. The windswept cliffs of Cabo de Roca were believed to be the edge of the world up until the late 14th century and the spectacular, desolate scenery adds to the allure of the location. The raging Atlantic Ocean waves pound the base of the massive jagged cliffs while challenging hiking trails follow the coastal paths. We spend some time in Cascais, known to as "The Town of Kings and Fishes" because it was a small fishing town that found favor with the 19th century Portuguese nobility, who came here for their summer retreat. Thanks to this fact, the town is uncommonly rich in beautiful architecture, free museums and carefully maintained parks, on top of which, it's surrounded by a varied coastline of impressive cliffs and beautiful, intimate sandy coves. From Cascais, the group can take a leisurely walk on the seafront promenade to Estoril, a town long established as the cosmopolitan holiday destination of the rich and famous on the Portuguese Riviera, Estoril has an elegance more commonly attributed to resorts on the Côte d'Azur. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Lisbon.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 - LISBON

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure do the district of Castelo on a convenient TukTuk ride towards the Castle of Sao Jorge, located on the highest hill of Lisbon, one of the most emblematic monuments of the capital. Then we will descend the old district of Alfama, known by its white houses, labyrinthine streets, inner courtyards and dead ends. Free time for lunch. We leave for Belem, where monuments referring to the Maritime Discovery era in the 15th and 16th centuries were built, such as the Belem tower, the Monument to the Discoveries and the Jeronimos Monastery. Rest of day free. Tonight you'll enjoy a farewell dinner with your fellow travellers. Overnight in Lisbon.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 - LISBON

Breakfast at the hotel and free time until transfer to Lisbon airport late morning. End of our services





Details

Payments:

\$600.00 Deposit required now to hold your reservation

\$800.00 Second Deposit: March 17, 2020

Final Payment: July 15, 2020

Prices apply with minimum/maximum 20 participants per option. If there are less than 20 people on this trip, there will be a \$275.00 surcharge. If under 10 participants, trip might not operate.

NOTE: PLEASE WAIT TO PURCHASE THE NON-REFUNDABLE TRAVEL INSURANCE UNTIL THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF GROUP PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED. YOUR TOUR MANAGER WILL ADVISE YOU WHEN YOU CAN ADD IT.

Cancellation:

Please send us cancellations in writing and enclose all travel documents including air tickets and vouchers. The date of receipt in our office determines the effective date of cancellation. Cancelling the air will incur a \$100 fee at any time. Airfare is completely nonrefundable once tickets have been issued. For any changes to dates or itinerary once tickets have been issued, a \$75 service fee plus any applicable airline imposed fees will apply (\$200-\$400).

Cancellation policy:

Cancellation 20% of deposit nonrefundable inside 7 days; Cancellation after 7 days of booking and outside 60 days 50% of deposit paid to date; Cancellation inside 60 days: nonrefundable.

No refunds will be given for unused portions of your package.