



LUXURY WINE TOUR TO PORTUGAL

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

SEPTEMBER 13TH – 17TH 2027

— 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 estates, served unique wines mellowed by decades of ageing, accompanied by fine food and breathtaking views. As well as Port, there is a whole universe of exciting red and dry white Portuguese wines to discover, from the light fresh wines of Vinho Verde to the emerging stars of the Dão.

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

This is a sample itinerary. The final itinerary should be almost identical once the last wineries confirm.

ILLUSTRIOUS PORT LODGES in historic Vila Nova de Gaia: **Taylor's**, **Graham's** and **Kopke**.

CHOCOLATE HEAVEN with a behind-the-scenes tour of the incredible chocolate museum and factory at **WOW**, plus chocolate and wine pairing masterclasses.

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

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 afternoon 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

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 sherries. He provides sales and marketing consultancy services to importers and exporters alike, as well as offering high-end wine education and wine tourism. When time allows, he enjoys writing about wine, and has been published in “The World of Fine Wine”.

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.

PRICE

US \$4,995 per person

The price includes 2 nights’ accommodations at both 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\$900 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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH – HISTORIC 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
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 STYLES

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.

[Taylor's Port Lodge](#)

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.

[Barao Fladgate Restaurant](#)



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ITINERARY | DAY 2

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH – CHOCOLATE, WINE, AND A TRIP ON THE RIVER

10.00 am – Depart Hotel

Just down from our hotel is [WOW](#), the world's largest and most extraordinary wine-tourism complex, featuring spaces and experiences dedicated to the rich Porto heritages of chocolate production, corks and glassware, as well as wine.

CHOCOLATE MUSUEM AND FACTORY AT WOW

Despite the multiple wine-related temptations, we dedicate our morning here to chocolate. A VIP guided tour of the museum leads into a behind-the-scenes discovery of the secrets of chocolate-making. Then, a tasting workshop will allow us to match different chocolates with a range of Portuguese wines and Ports.

[WOW](#)

VINUM RESTAURANT AT GRAHAM'S PORT LODGE

Time for "Port and Tonic" (a surprisingly successful mix) on the terrace of Graham's lodge before we have a special lunch in their Vinum restaurant, with more wonderful views 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.

[Graham's Port Lodge](#)

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...!!

[Kopke Port Lodge](#)

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 15TH – 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 16th century. A stroll through the beautiful historic gardens offers a moment of genuine enchantment before we continue on to the Douro Valley.

[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), all under the energetic direction of hands-on owner Sophia Bergqvist. Once installed here, it will be difficult to imagine leaving early, or trying to do anything more with the afternoon.

[Quinta de la Rosa](#)

VINTAGE HOUSE HOTEL PINHÃO

Finally dragging ourselves from Quinta de la Rosa, we are fortunately very close to our next hotel. 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 to offer you some downtime (or pool time), followed by a casual evening on the terrace, with light food and a chance to discover more surprising and fascinating wines from other regions of Portugal.

[Vintage House Hotel](#)



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ITINERARY | DAY 4

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH – PINHÃO

09.15 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!

[Quinta do Noval](#)

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.

[Churchill’s](#)

QUINTA DO BOMFIM

After some well-earned downtime, and before our grand dinner, we propose a quick tour of 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 ports among the most impressive you will taste. The whole estate exudes quiet refinement and elegance.

[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!

[Restaurant Bomfim 1896](#)



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ITINERARY | DAY 5

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH – UPPER DOURO

09.30 AM – Depart from 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 19th 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.

[Quinta do Vesuvio](#)

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 off at Porto airport, before finishing back at The Yeatman for those who wish to stay on. The exact timings are subject to the Portuguese train schedules, to be confirmed in early 2027.

Price: \$4,995 US (including non-refundable deposit of \$250) per person based on double occupancy. There is a \$900 US per person single supplement.

Space is limited to 20.

It will be a great trip with lots of fine wine, great food, amazing wineries, luxury hotels, a nice amount of wine education and many, many laughs. If you have any questions, please email us at info@finevintageltd.com.

