



Group Travel Specialists

Spain, Portugal & Rest of Europe

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Porto, Douro Valley Wine Country, North of Spain & Madrid - 10 days- Price on request. Visiting Porto, Gijon, Santander, Bilbao, San Sebastian, La Rioja & Madrid. 1 Free Air & Land with every 16 paying travelers.

Included in the Trip

- Round trip airfare.
- Escorted Tour of 10 Days/8 Nights: 2 Nights Porto, 1 Night Gijon, 1 Night Santander, 2 Nights Bilbao & 2 Nights Madrid
- 4* AC hotels (See description at the end of the itinerary).
- Buffet Breakfast and Dinner with wine daily, plus 3 Lunches.
- Visit and Wine Tasting at Taylors Winery in Porto.
- Visit, Wine Tasting & Lunch at Marqués de Riscal Winery in La Rioja.
- Luxury Private Motor Coach with English-speaking Guide
- Visits included: Porto, Bodegas Grahams, Mundo del Vino, Amarante, Vila Real, Pinhao Trancoso, Lamego, 50mts cruise on the Douro, Bodega Quinta da Avesada, Valladolid, Bilbao, San Sebastián, Bodegas Marqués de Riscal in La Rioja, and the city of Madrid. Headphones with all tours & airport transfers.
- Airport transfers & all taxes.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA – PORTO, PORTUGAL

Overnight transatlantic flight to Porto via Madrid. Dinner with wine, movies, and breakfast on board.



The city of Port

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN PORTO - City Tour

Welcome to Portugal. Porto is a beautiful and rich coastal city known worldwide for its excellent wines. Upon our arrival, our guide will pick us up at the customs exit to take us to the hotel where we will be offered with a welcome drink. Check-in and free time for lunch. Around 1 pm our guide will take us on a panoramic tour of Porto that will include its six beautiful bridges, Avenida dos Aliados with its magnificent and well-preserved buildings, the San Bento train station, the Cathedral of Porto, and the Clérigos Tower, all reminiscent of medieval. We will visit the Palacio de la Bolsa built in the nineteenth century and the church of San Francisco, known for its brilliant baroque interior with altars of precious wood carvings. Welcome dinner with wine in a typical Portuguese restaurant. Overnight in Porto.

DAY 3: PORTO, GRAHAM WINERY and the "World of Wine"

After our breakfast buffet our guide will take us to visit the **GRAHAM WINERIES** (see description below), known worldwide for its production of excellent Ports. We will

be shown the winery (1:00pm) and the manufacturing process and we will enjoy a Wine Tasting.



Bodegas Graham, Porto, Portugal

GRAHAM'S WINERY is one of the most beautiful in Porto. It was founded in **1820** and has its own **museum** where you can read the history of Port wine from its origins, as well as the life of the Symington and Graham families, founders of the winery in the nineteenth century.

After the visit we will visit the "**World of Wine**" (WOW.pt), a new leisure area with 6 museums, 9 restaurants, bars, and cafes, located in Vila Nova de Gaia, where a tribute to the city of Porto, history and Portuguese traditions is displayed. We will have free time to have lunch on our own and visit any of the 6 museums on the grounds. Around 5:30pm we return to the hotel.

Dinner with wine and overnight in Porto.

DAY 4: PORTO-AMARANTE-VILA REAL-DOURO VALLEY

Buffet breakfast and departure in our private bus with our guide to the Douro Valley, surrounded by hills and vineyards. On our route we will first visit the village of **Amarante** that offers two imposing natural features: the great Serra do Marao that rises above the city in a series of majestic landscapes and the Tâmega River, the longest tributary of the Douro River, which begins in Galicia and flows through the heart of Amarante giving added color to the picturesque houses that are on its banks. The Amarante bridge perpetuates the memory of the heroic resistance of the local population against Napoleon's troops, who invaded Portugal in the early nineteenth century. Amarante's sweets and pastries are extremely famous and easy to find in many of the region's pastry shops and cafes. Free time for lunch on our own. From

here we continue to Vila **Real** which is an ancient city, located at the confluence of the Corgo and Cabril rivers, framed by the mountains of Alvao and Marao to the west, and the Serra de Montemuro to the south. It preserves stately homes adorned with coats of arms, Manueline windows and traditional wrought iron balconies. Avenida Carvalho Araújo, bordered by traditional cobblestone sidewalks, runs through the city, leading to one end of the nineteenth-century City Hall building. Further on is the Gothic Cathedral. In Vila Real we will visit the famous Mateus Palace (entrance 16 euros included). Built in the first half of the 18th century, this palace is situated in the beautiful gardens of a vast farm and is regarded as one of the finest examples of Baroque civil architecture in Portugal. Its interior decoration includes some intricately carved wooden ceilings, furniture from various eras, paintings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, silverware, ceramics, and a library with a remarkable edition of the epic poem Os Lusíadas. After these two visits we arrive at our hotel in the Douro Valley where we will be offered a welcome drink. Dinner with wine and overnight in our hotel.



Vineyards of the Douro Valley in Portugal

DAY 5: DOURO VALLEY - EXCURSION TO PINHAO, TRANCOSO AND LAMEGO, WINE TASTING AND LUNCH IN A WINERY

Buffet breakfast and excursion departure with our guide to visit three charming Portuguese villages: Pinhao, Trancoso and Lamego. First, we will visit the beautiful village of **Pinhao**, located in the center of the Douro wine region. It deserves special attention its train station, built in the late nineteenth century, whose interior is completely lined with tile panels. Before leaving Pinhao we will enjoy a **50-minute River Cruise** on the Douro River that will offer us a very different and beautifying perspective of the region. We continue to [La Bodega Quinta da Avessada](#) in the Douro Valley, where we will take a guided tour followed by a wine Tasting and Lunch.



[Bodegas Quinta da Avessada, in Valle del Duero](#)

After lunch we will leave to visit the villages of Trancoso **and Lamego**.

Trancoso is a city whose narrow streets and stone houses retain the medieval atmosphere. The plateau on which it is located, at an altitude of 870 meters, gave it a strategic position in the defense of the border with Spain and made it an important fortress during the Middle Ages. **The Porta d'El Rei** is the main entrance to the walls and a tribute to Don Dinis, who celebrated his marriage to Isabella of Aragon here in the Chapel of San Bartolomé in 1282. The labyrinth of stone streets leads to the city center and the Pillory, where the old town and the new town converge. In the oldest part is the Castle, much disputed by Moors and Christians, and finally captured by Don Afonso Henriques in 1160.

Our last stop of the day will be in Lamego, an attractive city with Renaissance and Baroque mansions overlooking two hills. On one of the hills are the ruins of a twelfth-century castle, and the monumental Baroque sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios. A beautiful granite staircase decorated with tile panels, allegorical fountains, small chapels, and statues, leads to a baroque church overlooking the city. The most significant moment in the history of Lamego was in 1143, when the nobles declared Afonso Henriques as the first king of Portugal. The Gothic cathedral of the city was built by him although only the Romanesque tower remains of the original building with its carved Renaissance portal and its fine cloister dating from the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. After our day, we return to the hotel. Dinner with wine & overnight in the Douro Valley.

DAY 6: DOURO VALLEY-VALLADOLID (3h43m) -BILBAO (2h46m)

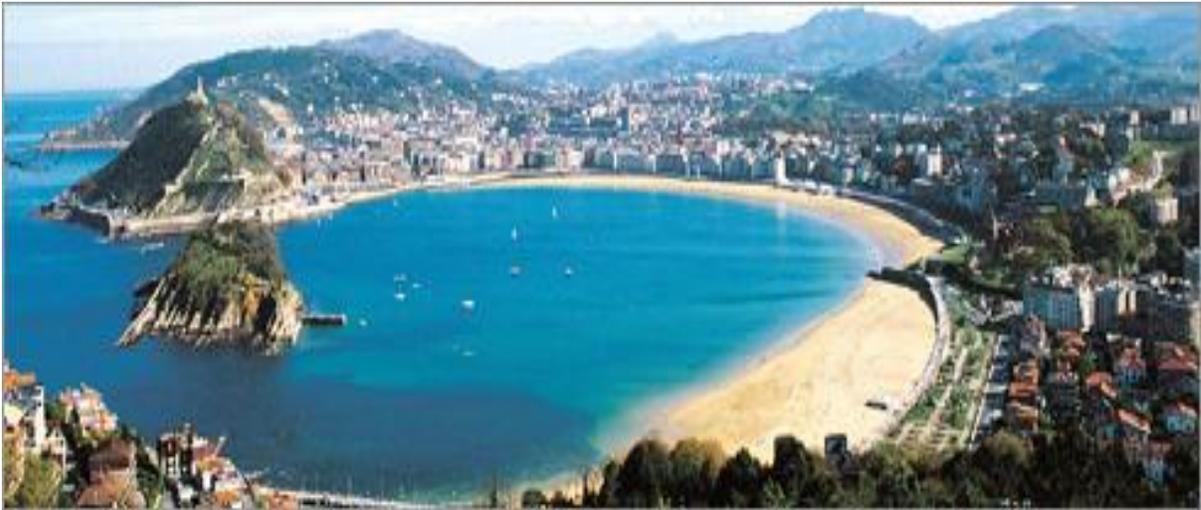
After our buffet breakfast, we will leave for Spain making a stop in Valladolid for lunch at about 1.30pm. After our Lunch, our guide will give us a bus tour of the city of **Valladolid** before continuing our trip to Bilbao (Spain) where we will arrive around 7:00pm. Upon arrival at the hotel, we will say goodbye to our friendly Portuguese guide because the next morning we will have a new tour escort who will show us Bilbao and San Sebastian. Dinner with wine is included in our hotel. Overnight in Bilbao.



Bilbao (Vizcaya)

DAY 7: VISIT BILBAO and EXCURSION TO SAN SEBASTIAN

Buffet breakfast and departure to visit the city of **Bilbao** that we will travel in our coach in panoramic view. Then we will take a walk through the city center. Then we will go on an excursion to visit the beautiful and elegant city of San Sebastian where our guide will take us on a walk through the city center. We will climb Mount Igueldo on a rack railway to enjoy the beautiful views of the Bay area and the city of San Sebastian. At 7:30pm Dinner with wine in a typical restaurant of San Sebastian Overnight in Bilbao.



San Sebastian (Basque Country)

DAY 8: EXCURSION TO LA RIOJA – BODEGAS MARQUES DE RISCAL
and continuation to **MADRID.**



Bodegas Marqués de Riscal, La Rioja

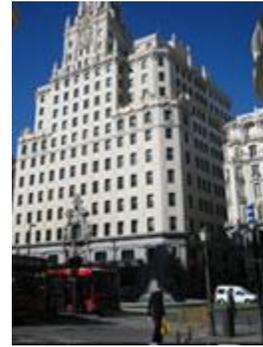
This winery is composed of the old Marqués De Riscal house (1858), one of the oldest in La Rioja, and a new building designed by Canadian architect Frank O. Gehry that houses the Marqués de Riscal 5* Hotel, a Luxury Collection Hotel & Spa, as well as two exclusive restaurants run by the famous chef Francis Paniego.

After breakfast we will leave for Madrid making a stop in **La Rioja** to visit the magnificent **Marqués de Riscal Winery**, one of the most beautiful in the area where we will arrive around 11:30am.

On arrival we will be met by an expert from the winery to show us the facilities. At 12:30pm we will enjoy a Wine Tasting followed by Lunch. Throughout its history the wines of the Marquis of Riscal have always been original, fresh, elegant, and easy to drink. Today this winery is present in more than 110 countries to which they export 65% of the production. After lunch, around 2:00pm, we will continue our journey to Madrid (3hr38m). Dinner with wine & overnight in Madrid.

DAY 9: City Tour of MADRID

After the breakfast buffet, the guide will take us on a tour of the city to see its most outstanding attractions, such as the Puerta del Sol, the magnificent fountains of Neptune and Cibeles, Puerta de Alcalá, the busy Gran Vía, Plaza de España and Plaza de Oriente. Free afternoon. Dinner with wine & overnight in Madrid



Madrid is the capital of Spain, and it lies in the heart of the Iberian Peninsula with a population of 4million. It is a cosmopolitan city that is characterized by an intense, cultural, and artistic activity that hosts excellent museums and monuments of extraordinary beauty as well as wide avenues and Renaissance buildings and an extraordinary shopping offer. It is the seat of government of the country where the Parliament and the Senate and the Royal House reside. The various regions of Spain have their own federal-style autonomous governments. Madrid offers a vibrant cultural and business activity.

DAY 10: RETURN TO THE U.S.

Buffet breakfast and transfer to the airport to take our flight back home, arriving this afternoon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HOTELS OF THE TOUR

NH Collection Porto Batalha 4*superior (Porto, Portugal)

[NH Collection Porto Batalha Hotel](#) 4* rating 8.9



In the center of Porto

The sophisticated NH Collection Porto Batalha is a 4-star hotel offering its guests access to an indoor pool and is located in Porto's city center. Just a 4-minute walk from São Bento Station, this hotel offers free Wi-Fi throughout. The elegant rooms at NH Collection Porto face san Juan's National Theatre and cosmopolitan Batalha Square and feature double or single beds and a private bathroom with a bath or shower, bidet, hairdryer, and free toiletries. The air-conditioned rooms come with a flat-screen satellite TV, a seating area, a safe, a minibar, a coffee machine, and an electric kettle. Nh Collection serves an invigorating breakfast buffet every morning and features a restaurant. In the evening, guests can enjoy a drink at the hotel bar. The center of all nightlife is less than half a mile away at the Galleries of Paris. The hotel features a 24-hour front desk, a sauna, a fitness center, and a relaxing indoor pool. Guests can request massage, laundry, and dry-cleaning services. The area of Ribeira, declared a World Heritage Site, just over half a mile away, offers a wide variety of restaurants and bars where you can enjoy the most traditional dishes and tapas of Porto and contemplate the Douro River and the D bridge. Louis I. On the other side of the Douro, guests can visit the Port wine cellars and enjoy a panoramic view of the city. Porto International Airport is 10.5 km away

The Wine House Hotel - Quinta da Pacheca 4*superior (Douro Valley, Portugal)

[The Wine House Hotel 4*, Quinta da Pacheca](#) rating 9.1



The luxurious Wine House Hotel in Lamego, in the heart of the Douro region, is surrounded by extensive private gardens with vineyards. This typical house of the eighteenth century was restored, respecting its traditional architecture and its original elements. It combines a modern design with a historic atmosphere. The individually decorated rooms at The Wine House Hotel - Quinta da Pacheca are individually decorated and air conditioned. All rooms have a private bathroom, and some have a private balcony. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. A buffet breakfast is served daily. The restaurant serves gourmet cuisine made with local products and offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. It is also possible to taste and buy the wine produced in Quinta da Pacheca.

NH Collection Villa de Bilbao 4*superior (Bilbao, Spain)

[Hotel NH Collection Villa de Bilbao 4* superior](#) rating 8.8



Este hotel moderno se encuentra en el centro de Bilbao, junto al estadio de fútbol de San Mamés y el palacio Euskalduna. Ofrece WiFi y acceso gratuitos a un centro de fitness.

El NH Collection Villa de Bilbao está a pocos pasos del Museo Guggenheim, del parque de Doña Casilda y del Museo de Bellas Artes. En las inmediaciones se encuentra el centro comercial Zubiarte, así como muchas tiendas y bares de tapas.

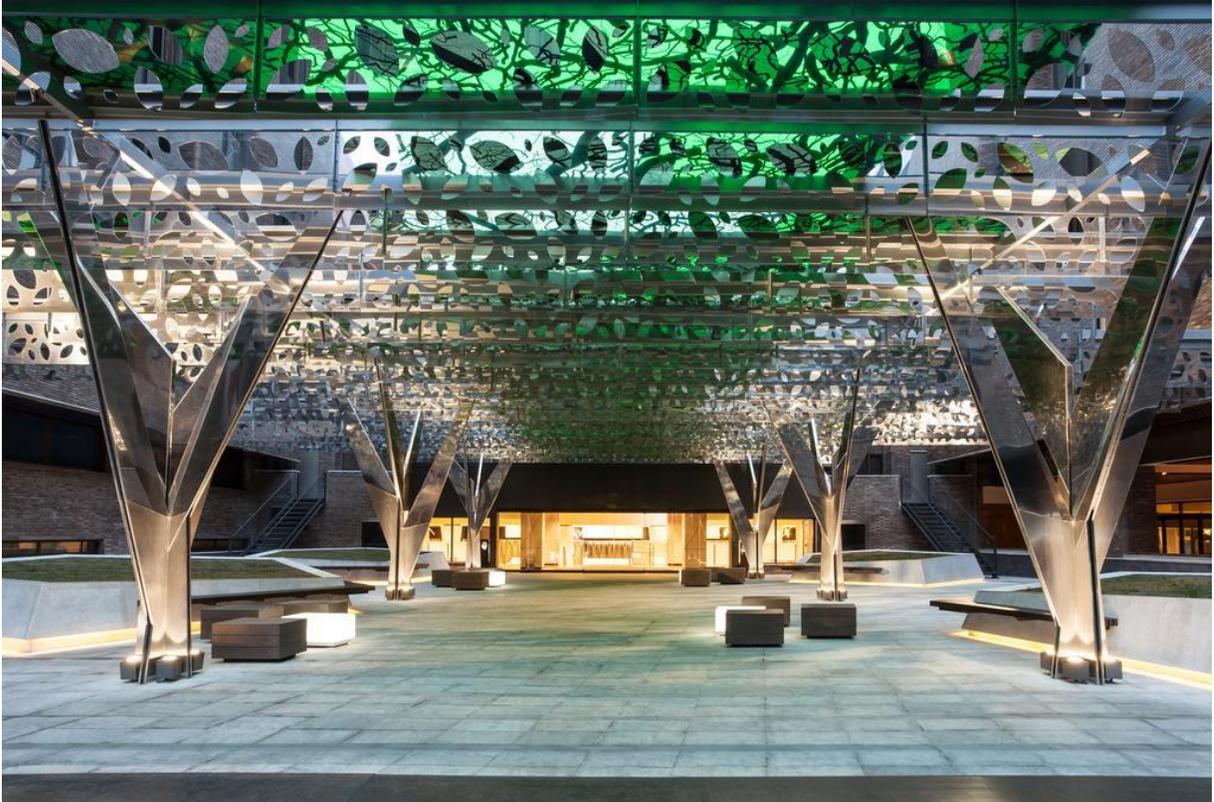
Las habitaciones del NH Collection Villa de Bilbao son espaciaosas y están bien equipadas con aire acondicionado y TV vía satélite. Hay calefacción radiante y una decoración elegante que incluye obras de arte moderno.

Se sirve un desayuno detox saludable del NH en el restaurante Le Bol Blanc. También hay bar en el vestíbulo con WiFi gratuita.

NOVOTEL MADRID CITY CENTER 4*SUPERIOR

O'Donnell, 53, Madrid, 28009, Spain

<https://www.guestreservations.com/novotel-madrid-center/booking?msclkid=3b69418e59c71c9cb0591e30d535fb14>



Novotel Madrid Center is in the Salamanca district and an 8-minute walk from Retiro Park. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. The modern rooms at Novotel Madrid Center feature a 37- or 50-inch flat-screen TV, a safe and a private bathroom with a bath or shower. The rooms have wooden floors. The hotel's restaurant, the Eat Bar, serves simple traditional dishes. The modern restaurant also has a video wall that offers the latest sporting events. The nearest tube station is O'Donnell, 1,500 feet away. A selection of shops, bars, banks, and restaurants can be reached within a 5-minute walk. Salamanca district is a great choice for travelers interested in shopping, restaurants, and culture.