

# PORTUGAL & SPAIN: TREASURES ALONG THE GOLDEN DOURO

Your 14-night journey includes: River-view stateroom aboard the m/s Douro Serenity; 7-night European river cruise to Óbidos, Nazaré, Porto, Guimarães, Entre-os-Rios, Régua, Lamego, Pinhão, Barca d'Alva & Salamanca; 3 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Lisbon; 3 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Madrid

Join Vantage on this picturesque river cruise into the heart of the Douro Valley, where generations of winemakers have created some of the world's finest vintages. Alongside tastings at renowned quintas and wine estates, you'll revel in bucolic landscapes where latticed vineyards lead to medieval hillside towns. You'll also discover the revered cultural capitals of Spain and Portugal, including Lisbon, Madrid, and Porto, home to its signature port wine.

From town to country, uncover culture, cuisine, and varietals with 29 included features and Cultural Connections. Attend a fado performance in Portugal and enjoy a passionate flamenco dinner show aboard the m/s Douro Serenity. Learn about the Portuguese economy and lifestyle with lectures on tea and cork production

Enjoy both the best value and Vantage Exclusives — including a lunch at the Quinta da Avessada winery — as well as explorations away from the crowds in small groups and exclusive Harvest departures. Sail in elegance on the m/s Douro Serenity, and make the most of your journey with optional pre- and post-trip extensions to Madeira and Barcelona.

### JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

#### DOURO VALLEY



Sip your way through the Douro River Valley, enjoying views of latticed vineyards and visiting quaint towns and wine estates

#### PORTO



Tour the highlights of Portugal's second-largest city and uncover its mosaic of architectural styles and creative, contemporary vibe

#### QUINTA DA AVESSADA



Meet the winery host and uncover generations of wine production at this celebrated estate, where you'll enjoy lunch and a tasting

#### SALAMANCA



Experience this old city that's young at heart, thanks to thousands of students who attend the local 13thcentury university





Explore Spain's lively and cosmopolitan capital on panoramic and walking tours

#### MATEUS MANOR HOUSE & GARDEN



Step into the Old Europe of your imagination at this sprawling estate, complete with stunning and meticulously-maintained gardens

#### ÓBIDOS



Explore one of Portugal's prettiest towns — once a gift to Queen Isabel from King Dinis



Discover the endless nooks and crannies of UNESCO-listed and cobblestoned Lisbon

#### LOCAL QUINTAS



Enjoy fantastic regional wines in breathtaking Douro River Valley settings

#### CULTURAL IMMERSION



From an onboard *fado* performance to a flamenco show, delve into the culture of Portugal and Spain throughout your journey

## YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Port charges now included a value of \$168 per person!
- Purchase your airfare from Vantage and your airport transfers, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees are included
- Accommodations: 7 nights in a spacious outside stateroom aboard the 4-star *m/s Douro Serenity*, 3 nights at the *Corinthia Hotel Lisbon* (or similar), and 3 nights at the *Meliá Madrid Princesa* (or similar)
- 30 meals: 13 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 10 dinners
- 29 included features and Cultural Connections
- Enjoy immersive small group excursions with no more than 35-40 travelers per group
- Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks available every night at dinner during your river cruise
- 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Sintra
- · Complimentary Destination Manager to assist with

all your personal requests

- The services of a Vantage River Cruise Director and City Hosts, plus shipboard commentary, regional experts, and private motorcoach for excursions
- · Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- All transportation on tour
- All transfers and baggage handling overseas, beginning with your first hotel or aboard ship
- Vantage's 5% Travel Reward, received upon your return, to use toward your next Vantage Journey

## SPECIAL INTEREST



#### HARVEST HIGHLIGHTS

\*Dates available: September 15, 2023 - Lisbon to Madrid, September 22, 2023 - Madrid to Lisbon Uncover the magic of the Douro River Valley, one of the world's most famous wine regions. On this special winethemed departure, you'll get a true taste for the specialties of Portugal and Spain as you enjoy wine tastings in several historic cities, explore local wineries, and learn about the region's long and celebrated history of wine-making.

You'll enjoy a number of Harvest-exclusive features such as:

- A wine tasting at Aveleda Winery, one of the best wine-producing estates in the Vinho Verde region
- A special onboard demonstration of the correct method for opening and decanting a fine bottle of vintage port
- A full-day harvest celebration at Quinta da Avessada, a century-old winery known for its innovation in viniculture and tourism experiences. Here, you'll enjoy a delicious lunch and local entertainment on the grounds before experiencing the process firsthand as you try your hand at grape stomping! You'll also visit some of the most celebrated towns and cities of the Douro region, including:Porto: In the 17th century, two wine merchants discovered that adding grape spirit to a wine helped to preserve its sweetness as it made the long journey from Portugal to England. The wine merchants named this fortification process after the town they were shipping from, Porto, and port wine was born. Today, port wine is a proud staple of the Douro wine region. You'll experience this tradition firsthand as you attend a tasting at a port wine cellar. A pioneer in the process of modern port wine-making, this local winery is the perfect introduction to this rich, sweet beverage.

Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo: This medieval town features some fascinating architectural accents, including 16th-century facades and Manuelino-style windows. After taking some time to explore, you'll enjoy a small sample of cheese, jam, breads, and other local products in addition to a local wine tasting.

Lamego: Enjoy views of beautiful terraced vineyards during a visit to Lamego, a town known for its wine production and the Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios shrine. This elaborate structure is a regular stop for Catholic pilgrims, who climb its nearly 700 steps in order to ask the Virgin Mary to rid them of their afflictions.

Pinhão: Take in magnificent views of the gorgeous Douro Valley as you enjoy a special port wine tasting and food sampling at a local quinta.

Régua: Delve into the identity of this region's wine production and traditions as we tour the Museu do Douro. Once headquarters of the General Company of Agriculture of the High Douro wines, this museum is the perfect place to gain understanding of the cultural landscape of the Douro Valley region.



#### WINE HIGHLIGHTS

Sip your way through Portugal with a variety of wine-themed experiences, including:

Harvest Departures: Join us on a special Harvest-themed itinerary of this remarkable voyage and enjoy enhanced tastings, grape-picking traditions, learn how to correctly open and decant a fine bottle of vintage port, and much more.

Porto: In the 17th century, two wine merchants discovered

that adding grape spirit to a wine helped to preserve its sweetness, as it made the long journey from Portugal to England. The two wine merchants named this fortification process after the town they were shipping from, Porto, and port wine was born. Today, port wine is a proud staple of the Douro wine region. You'll experience this tradition firsthand as you attend a tasting at a port wine cellar. A pioneer in the process of modern port wine-making, this local winery is the perfect introduction to this rich, sweet beverage.

Mateus Manor House & Garden: See the magnificent palace depicted on Mateus rosé wine bottles come to life on an excursion to the 18th-century Mateus Manor House & Garden. You'll have a chance to admire the baroque architecture and elaborately manicured gardens at this stately property. (Not available on Harvest departures.)

Quinta da Avessada: Enjoy a local lunch at the Quinta da Avessada, located in the heart of the Douro wine region, where you'll have a chance to taste the exquisite wine made on the grounds.

Régua: Take in magnificent views of the gorgeous Douro Valley region as you enjoy a special port wine tasting and food sampling at a local quinta.

Lamego: Enjoy views of beautiful terraced vineyards during a visit to Lamego, a town known for its wine production and the Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios shrine. This elaborate structure is a regular stop for Catholic pilgrims, who climb its nearly 700 steps in order to ask the Virgin Mary to rid them of their afflictions.



CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS Discover the traditions and history behind some of the most classic dishes of Portugal and Spain. From seafood to tapas, wine to tea, enjoy a gamut of experiences and flavors both onboard and on shore. Visit local markets, enjoy meals in local restaurants and quintas, and even learn to make the famed Pastéis de Belém, Portugal's favorite treat.

- Savor a culinary tasting of local cheese, jam, breads, and wines during your tour of the small medieval village of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo
- Enjoy a special regional lunch at Quinta da Avessada, complete with a sampling of the region's most cherished wines (except on Harvest departures, where you'll attend a full-day Harvest Festival instead)
- Sample then learn how to make pastéis de nata
- Enjoy a presentation on Portuguese tea, followed by a teatime with local tea samples
- · Visit Madrid's Mercado Central with tapas tasting



#### **RELIGIOUS HIGHLIGHTS**

A cathedral is religion and history and art all rolled into one; the incredible architecture, the gorgeous stained-glass windows and statues decorating the interior, the comfort and hope it brings people. From bustling modern cities to charming fairytale-like towns, you'll explore several churches that hold both historical and religious importance to locals and visitors alike.

• Visit the stunning examples of baroque, Renaissance, and

Gothic-style architecture during city tours

- View the exterior of the 500-year old Jeronimos Monastery, a beautiful example of Gothic Manueline-style architecture, during your tour of Lisbon
- Visit the Old Cathedral (Catedral Vieja) in Salamanca

#### MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Reserve Today! Call Toll-Free 1 800 322 6677 - WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/PTL23



Lively music performances during the course of your cruise will enhance the rich heritage of the Douro Valley region in a whole new way. These engaging acts aim to give depth to the cultural connections you create during your travels, highlight celebrated regional traditions, and (of course) entertain!

- Enjoy an energetic performance from a tuna band, a tradition that started as a group of locals who performed popular songs as a way to travel and meet new people
- Let music carry you back through time as you enjoy an

onboard band playing music from the '60s, '70s, and '80s

• Honor the rich tradition of Portuguese fado music with an onboard performance



ART & CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS Gain unique insight into the culture of Portugal and Spain through cuisine, through grand architecture and art, through lively performances, and through engaging with locals in exciting ways. Each day brings new, fascinating cultural connections. Here's how:

- Experience the Iberian Peninsula's rich culture with a tuna band performance, fado music, and language lessons
- Enjoy lectures by local experts during your cruise and on shore excursions
- Visit the 18th-century Mateus Manor House, a historic

estate with an impressive baroque exterior and stunning grounds (not available on Harvest departures)

- Marvel at the impressive spread of urban architectural styles, from Gothic to contemporary, during an illuminating walking tour of Lisbon, and then contrast the styles with the various architecture you'll see in cities including Salamanca, Porto, and Obidos
- Sample Porto's signature world-famous wine during a port-wine cellar visit

#### **UNESCO & HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Sometimes the most fascinating history comes from the most unexpected sources. On this cruise, you will delve into the storied past of Portugal's Douro Valley and Spain, learning nuggets of history through everything, from UNESCO World Heritage Sites to lectures, and even an insightful teatime.

Portugal's Alto Douro Wine Region: Enjoy scenic sailing through the UNESCO-listed Alto Douro Wine Region, a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic



evolution.

Lisbon: An enchanting combination of cobbled alleyways, ancient ruins, and modern marvels, the city of Lisbon is full of historic gems. Embark on a panoramic tour of this storied city, including the Belém Tower, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Óbidos: Wander through the maze-like streets, colorful squares, and abundance of historic churches of medieval Óbidos. This well-preserved walled town was nicknamed the

"Wedding Present Town" after King Dinis gifted it to his bride, Queen Isabel, in 1282.

Salamanca: Experience the rare urban beauty of Salamanca, an ancient Spanish city with a history dating back to the Celtic era. We'll explore the cathedral, university, main square, and other remarkable monuments that earned the historic center of this city UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

Porto: Explore the bustling historic center of this lavish city, a 2,000-year-old area so rich in history, architecture, and culture it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One can't visit Porto without enjoying its signature wine, of course, so you'll also stop by a port-wine cellar for a sampling of this world-famous drink.

Madrid: Fall in love with the energy of vibrant Madrid, a sprawling city renowned for its artistic pedigree and architectural history and truly one of the world's great capitals. Your included tour will take you on a panoramic drive through the city, including the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor, Cibeles Fountain, and more.

Plus, get an insider's look at the viniculture of this vibrant region as you attend several illuminating onboard lectures and Cultural Connections including:

- "A Look Inside Portugal"
- "Portuguese Filigree"
- Portuguese tea experience
- Enjoy a talk on Portugal's cork industry aboard your ship

#### PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Have your camera ready at all times in Portugal and Spain, two lively countries chock-full of picturesque architecture, art, history, and unique shops. While you'll want to capture it all, here are a few photographic highlights to look out for:



- The cultural capitals of Lisbon and Madrid offer photographic opportunities at every corner. You'll have plenty of free time to explore and follow your own artistic pursuits
- Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo this medieval town surrounded by a fortified wall is known for its castle, situated high on a hill, offering outstanding views of the Portuguese countryside
- The town of Porto might've birthed port wine, but this colorful little gem on the waterfront offers spectacular

scenery, including colorful homes, cobbled streets, hillsides, bridges, and much more



#### ACTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Stay active on your journey down the Douro! In addition to morning onboard stretching and yoga offerings (features vary by departure), you'll enjoy a bevy of active endeavors. Here are but a few:

- A number of active city walking tours. Portugal is especially hilly, so pack your sneakers!
- Embark on a hike through the Seven Hills of Lisbon
- Keep up with your daily exercise regimen by taking

advantage of your ship's gym and pool

• Enjoy opportunities for more active walks in several destinations



SOLO TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS Your solo-friendly river cruise has been enhanced with special features catering to independent travelers, including:

- Complimentary biking options take a spin alongside your Destination Manager, who will lead small-group bike rides, or explore independently with our complimentary locks, helmets, and biking maps
- A lively social media night and musical performances most

#### nights

• Solo-friendly social activities, including a Solo Connection mixer

· Onboard entertainment, lectures, and cooking demonstrations



#### CONCIERGE SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Prior to your expedition cruise, our complimentary Concierge service will be available to help you customize your journey. Here are just a few services your Concierge can provide:

 Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, family reunion or other important event you want to celebrate on board? Let your Concierge know and he or she can make all the special arrangements, whether it's a private

reception in your suite, a gathering in the lounge, and more

- Restaurant reservations. Just notify your Concierge of your interests, and he or she will be happy to make recommendations, and will call ahead to reserve your table
- Special excursions. Would you like a limo to take you for a special night in the city? Perhaps you'd like to look up long-lost relatives. Your Concierge is here to help!
- Extend your stay! Your Concierge can help modify your hotel reservations and flights if you decide to stay on
- Tickets to local concerts, exhibits, theater, sporting events, and more

Take advantage of this free, start-to-finish service by making your requests prior to your journey or during your journey. We are one of the only companies to offer this level of service! Call 1-888-982-6824 or email Concierge@vantagetravel.com to speak to a Concierge today, or simply log into My Portfolio up to two weeks prior to departure.During your journey, your onboard Destination Manager can assist with any special requests such as spa reservations, hotel reservations, and more.

### LISBON TO MADRID

| DAY 1:  | Fly to Portugal  |
|---------|--|
| DAY 2:  | Welcome to Lisbon! Enjoy a<br>Welcome Dinner with fellow<br>travelers tonight                        |
|         | Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar  |
| DAY 3:  | Tour Lisbon's famed monuments<br>and sample a culinary favorite<br>Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar |
| DAY 4:  | Enjoy Lisbon at your leisure<br>Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar                                    |
| DAY 5:  | The storied walls of Óbidos and seaside Nazaré; embark the ship in Porto                             |
|         | ms Douro Serenity >  |
| DAY 6:  | Discover Porto and enjoy a port<br>wine sampling at a local wine<br>cellar                           |
|         | ms Douro Serenity >  |
| DAY 7:  | Join a walking tour of Porto's<br>Ribeira district   |
|         | ms Douro Serenity >  |
| DAY 8:  | Sample local vintages at Aveleda<br>Winery before touring Régua                                      |
|         | ms Douro Serenity >  |
| DAY 9:  | Lamego's highlights, a regional quinta tasting, and an evening of traditional entertainment          |
|         | ms Douro Serenity >  |
| DAY 10: | Mateus manor house and garden<br>and Quinta da Avessada wine<br>tasting                              |
|         | ms Douro Serenity >  |
| DAY 11: | Journey back to medieval times in<br>Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo                                     |
|         | ms Douro Serenity >  |
| DAY 12: | Discover Salamanca's Old City,<br>then head to Madrid  |
| -       | Meliá Madrid Princesa or similar   |
| DAY 13: | See more of Madrid's landmarks<br>Meliá Madrid Princesa or similar                                   |
| DAY 14: | Explore Madrid at your leisure<br>Meliá Madrid Princesa or similar                                   |
|         |  |





DAY 1: Fly to Portugal

Depart the U.S. and board an overnight flight to Lisbon, Portugal. Or, depart earlier for your pretrip extension to Madeira, Portugal.

**DAY 2:** Welcome to Lisbon! Enjoy a Welcome Dinner with fellow travelers tonight

Arrive in Portugal's capital today. If you purchased your airfare from Vantage, our representative will meet you outside the arrivals area at the airport and assist you with your transfer to the hotel. Travelers who took the optional pre-trip extension to Madeira will meet up with fellow travelers on Day 2. Enjoy a Welcome Briefing and Dinner this evening.

Included meals: Dinner Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar

**DAY 3:** Tour Lisbon's famed monuments and sample a culinary favorite

Begin the day with a guided panoramic and walking tour of Lisbon's famed monuments, including Belém Tower and the courtyards of Jeronimos Monastery, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. During your city tour, you'll sample a classic Portuguese pastry: the mouthwatering pastéis de Belém. One taste of this creamy egg custard wrapped in buttery, flaky crust, and you'll see why this is Portugal's favorite treat! Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure by exploring Lisbon's cobblestoned charm on your own, or perhaps join your Cruise Director for a pub crawl.

#### Included Feature:

• Guided panoramic and walking tour of Lisbon and its monuments

#### **Cultural Connection:**

• *Pastéis de Belém* sampling Included meals: Breakfast *Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar* 

DAY 4: Enjoy Lisbon at your leisure

After breakfast at your hotel, you'll have a full day at leisure to explore more of Lisbon on your own. Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Set out on an optional tour of Sintra and Cascais, with a visit to Queluz Palace. Learn more Included meals: Breakfast *Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar* 

**DAY 5:** The storied walls of Óbidos and seaside Nazaré; embark the ship in Porto

Today, head to the port wine capital of Porto, Portugal's second-largest city featuring a charming tangle of alleyways, a walkable historic city center, and an unmistakably hip vibe that makes a delightful contrast to the city's medieval walls and myriad architectural styles. On the way to Porto, explore Óbidos on a walking tour before venturing to Nazaré, a beach town famous for its monstrous waves and surfing culture. Enjoy lunch here before continuing on to Porto, where you'll embark the m/s Douro Serenity and enjoy a Welcome Reception with fellow travelers.

#### **Included Features:**

- Óbidos walking tour
- Walking tour of Nazaré with lunch Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner ms Douro Serenity >

**DAY 6:** Discover Porto and enjoy a port wine sampling at a local wine cellar

Following breakfast on board, get to know Porto better with a full city tour and panoramic drive, including a visit to the historic center — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — and the market area. No visit to Porto is complete without enjoying its signature wine, of course! So, you'll seek out port wine at one of the city's best-known cellars. Learn about and sample the varieties of this digestif while enjoying views of Porto and the Douro River. Following dinner on board, enjoy a lively performance by a local tuna band.

#### Included Feature:

· Guided city and panoramic tour of Porto

#### **Cultural Connections:**

- Port wine tasting in a celebrated Porto wine cellar
- Tuna band performance in the ship's lounge Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner *ms Douro Serenity* >

**DAY 7:** Join a walking tour of Porto's Ribeira district

Discover more of Porto with a walking tour of its oldest district, Ribeira. Located on the banks of the Douro River, Ribeira is one of Porto's most picturesque neighborhoods. Before dinner on board, learn about Portugal's thriving cork industry in the lounge; then, let music transport you back in time when local performers come on board to play favorites from the '60s, '70s, and '80s.

#### **Included Feature:**

• Walking tour of Porto's Ribeira district

#### **Cultural Connections:**

- Onboard lecture
- Onboard performance

#### **Scenic Sailing:**

• This afternoon, you will sail down the UNESCO-listed Douro River, lined with

terraced vineyards and quintas, or rural estates. During the length of our cruise, you'll pass multiple locks and hear onboard commentary on certain stretches, while enjoying slow sailing to savor every view! Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Embark on an optional guided sightseeing tour of Guimarães. Learn more Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner *ms Douro Serenity* >

**DAY 8:** Sample local vintages at Aveleda Winery before touring Régua

A plethora of cultural delights awaits you today! Begin the day in Bitetos, where a short drive brings you to Aveleda Winery for a tasting of Vinho Verde and snacks before returning to the ship for lunch. Back on board, as we sail to Régua, you will enjoy an authentic Portuguese tea experience — complete with delectable pastries — while learning about the traditions surrounding tea drinking and tea production. In the afternoon, head off on a short walk to Régua and visit its Museu do Douro to learn about the storied Douro River during a lecture and wine tasting. Alternatively, skip the museum and explore more of the town on an active walk. Later, delve into the recipe behind pastéis de nata, one of Portugal's favorite treats, during an onboard cooking lesson.

**Included Features:** 

- Régua excursion and Museu do Douro with wine tasting and lecture
- Aveleda Winery excursion with wine and cheese tasting

#### **Cultural Connections:**

• Portuguese tea experience onboard

• Onboard cooking lesson: Pastéis de nata

#### **Active Feature:**

 Régua active walking tour Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner ms Douro Serenity >

**DAY 9:** Lamego's highlights, a regional quinta tasting, and an evening of traditional entertainment

Today you'll explore the quaint town of Lamego, filled with terra-cotta rooftops, tree-lined streets, and a 700-step staircase that leads to the grand Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios. Your tour begins at the church. Then, you can descend all 700 steps and admire the surrounding gardens filled with monuments, terraces, fountains, and pretty tile mosaics. You'll also visit the Lamego Museum, which houses a collection of works by Portuguese painter Grão Vasco. Enjoy lunch on board and an afternoon at leisure, during which you'll cruise to Pinhão and get "A Look Inside Portugal" with another lecture. Early this evening, head to another quinta to sample more fantastic regional wines in yet another breathtaking Douro setting. After, experience the tradition of Portuguese fado music as you enjoy a performance and attend the Captain's Dinner.

Included Features:

- Lamego tour, with entrance to the Lamego Museum
- Afternoon quinta visit and wine tasting

#### **Cultural Connections:**

- Onboard lecture: "A Look Inside Portugal"
- Fado music performance in the lounge Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner *ms Douro Serenity* >

DAY 10: Mateus manor house and garden and

#### Quinta da Avessada wine tasting

Spend the morning at the magnificent 18thcentury Mateus manor house and garden. On a walking tour, discover this sweeping baroque property and palace, including a maze of manicured hedgerows, elegant parterres, and a lake reflecting the palace in its mirror-still surface. Lunchtime brings you to Quinta da Avessada, where you'll meet the winery host, view generations of wine production, and come closer to a true understanding of this region's way of life. Many of our travelers rave that this is the best meal on the cruise! After dinner tonight, gather in the lounge for a movie and popcorn.

Vantage Exclusive:

• Quinta da Avessada winery lunch

#### **Included Feature:**

• Mateus Palace and Gardens tour Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner ms Douro Serenity >

**DAY 11:** Journey back to medieval times in Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo

Enjoy breakfast and a morning at leisure as your ship sails from Pinhão to Barca d'Alva (where travelers can see Spain in the distance!). After lunch on board, turn back the clock 600 years on a combined coach and walking tour that brings you to the fortified hill town of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo and its old walls, the 16thcentury pillory, and the local parish church. You'll also enjoy a small tasting of local products here. Later, enjoy a special "World of Discoveries" dinner on board, which includes a stirring flamenco show!

#### Included Feature:

• Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo walking tour

#### **Culinary Feature:**

 Regional food tasting in Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo

• Flamenco dinner show Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner ms Douro Serenity >

**DAY 12:** Discover Salamanca's Old City, then head to Madrid

Discover the magic of Salamanca on a coach and walking tour. Then, explore its UNESCOlisted Old City and see the town's grand cathedral and baroque Plaza Mayor, where you can seek out churros and do some shopping and independent wandering along the town's main street. Lunch (typically tapas) will be on your own. We'll depart for Madrid after lunch; practice your pronunciation during the drive with a Spanish language lesson and an introduction to Spain. We'll reach Madrid and check into our centrally-located hotel close to many restaurants, the Royal Palace, and the famous El Corte Inglés shopping mall (just across the street). Tonight, regroup for a Farewell Dinner at the hotel.

#### Vantage Exclusive:

• Guided Salamanca walking tour, with visit to the UNESCO-listed Old City

#### **Cultural Connection:**

 Spanish language lesson and introduction to Spain
Included meals: Breakfast & dinner
Meliá Madrid Princesa or similar

DAY 13: See more of Madrid's landmarks

Explore more of vibrant Madrid on a panoramic tour by foot and motorcoach that showcases the city's main squares — Playa Sol and Plaza Mayor — as well as the Egyptian Temple of Debod, Segovia Bridge, the Royal Palace of Madrid, Atocha Station, and more. Then, visit the city's Mercado Central for an included tapas tasting!

#### **Included Feature:**

• Panoramic and walking tour of Madrid Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Enjoy an optional guided tour of Madrid's incredible Prado Museum. Learn more Included meals: Breakfast & dinner *Meliá Madrid Princesa or similar* 

DAY 14: Explore Madrid at your leisure

Enjoy a free day to pursue your own interests with recommendations provided by your Cruise Director. Wander the city's many squares, shop for espadrilles and other classic Spanish products, and get your fill of tapas. The evening is at leisure with dinner on your own.

Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Visit Toledo, Spain — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — on an optional full-day tour. Learn more Included meals: Breakfast

Meliá Madrid Princesa or similar

**DAY 15:** Return home, or head to Barcelona on an optional extension

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or continue your travels by next heading to Barcelona on an optional extension. Included meals: Breakfast

**Important Notice:** The above day-by-day itinerary is preliminary and subject to change. If changes occur while on tour, you will be notified by your Cruise Director or regional expert. In addition, should there be an extreme change in water levels, Vantage will do everything possible to provide either the included excursion or an alternate excursion at Vantage's discretion.

**Please Note:** Port times & itineraries are subject to change. Fluctuating water levels may affect itinerary. \*Note that on our special harvest itineraries, winery visits may occur on days other than advertised.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



### m/s Douro Serenity

Board the marvelous *M/S Douro Serenity* on a journey that will take you through the best of Portugal in comfort, style, and with the ultimate in privacy and luxury amenities. This modern ship has an unprecedented level of privacy, space, and personal attention from crew during every sailing. This means that you'll have breathtaking panoramic views, plenty of room, and the best in luxury world-class in service at every turn. The *M/S Douro Serenity* offers:

#### •61 solo-ready cabins

#### •Max capacity of 124 passengers

#### •All outward-facing rooms

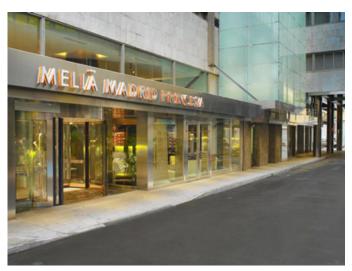
While aboard, take advantage of the handsome, single-seating restaurant, bar/lounge, spa treatment room, pool deck, and gym. Watch the magnificent scenery of the valley unfold from your stylishly decorated cabin, which also offers individual air-conditioning, a TV with Video on Demand, and a private bath with shower. There is no better way to river cruise than on a luxurious ship like this, and you will see this in every detail while onboard. Join us and find out first-hand why the *M/S Douro Serenity* is a top choice for our guests from all over the world.

In order to successfully navigate the Douro River Locks, the *M/S Douro Serenity* is shorter in size than the average river cruise ship. Cabins sizes are styled in a European manner and may be smaller than an American-style cabin.



### Corinthia Hotel Lisbon ★★★★★

Soak in the best of Portugal's capital city with a stay at the Corinthia Hotel Lisbon. Located just minutes from multiple museums, shopping malls, and Lisbon's underground system, you'll be ideally situated to explore the gems of this historic city. Unwind after a day of exploration with a visit to the hotel's spa and indoor pool, or simply relax and gaze out over stunning views of the city. Room amenities include air-conditioning, a coffee-maker, an in-room safe, cable television, and Wi-Fi, as well as daily maid service.



### Meliá Madrid Princesa ★★★★★

Located in the cultural and business heart of Madrid, the Meliá Madrid Princesa is a boutique hotel that's been recently renovated to combine tradition with a surprising cutting edge "Level" Rooms, meaning high floors, with better views. Only 10 minutes from the Plaza de Espana, Plaza Mayor, Gran Vía and Puerto del Sol, the hotel's guest rooms feature Wi-Fi, satellite TV channels, and air-conditioning, and the on-site Uno Restaurant serves delicious meals for its visitors.



#### Pestana Carlton Madeira Hotel ★★★★

The Pestana Carlton Madeira Hotel is one of the most sophisticated 5-star hotels on Madeira Island, recently refurbished to reflect the newest trends. Located in Funchal, Madeira, the Pestana Carlton boasts a unique location with direct access to the Atlantic Ocean and magnificent ocean views, and rooms feature a private bathroom, cable TV, radio, telephone, air-conditioning, minibar, safety deposit box, balcony or terrace, coffee and tea facilities, and Wi-Fi. Not only that, but you'll have a guaranteed sea-view room!



#### Ocean Drive Barcelona Hotel ★★★★★

Enjoy a stay in Ocean Drive Barcelona Hotel, a venue as stylish and cultured as the city it overlooks. Located in Barcelona's trendy Eixample district, you'll find entertainment nearby, from restaurants to shopping to cultural sites. Enjoy a taste of local flavors at the on-site restaurant, or relax and soak in the inspiring sights of the city from the hotel's rooftop bar. Room amenities include airconditioning, a refrigerator, an in-room safe, cable television, and Wi-Fi, as well as daily housekeeping service.