



WINE AND CASTLES ON THE DOURO VALLEY

On this trip we will travel the course of one of the most important rivers of the Iberian Peninsula, from the lands of **Castile** to its mouth in **Porto** in the Atlantic Ocean, for those who want to enjoy a **different perspective of Spain and Portugal**.

A trip for **food and wine and enthusiasts**, passing through four regions with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO): **Ribera del Duero, Rueda, Toro and Oporto**.

It is also a trip for history buffs. The Duero River was for centuries a "no man's land", disputed since Roman times and then between the Moorish and Christian kingdoms, full **castles and forts**. And its nature. Throughout its course, the Douro has shaped a **rustic landscape, at times of endless expanses, at times of steep canyons**, especially impressive when it reaches the border with Portugal, where we will enjoy a **river cruise** from the Douro International Natural Park to Porto.



Day 1.

MADRID - PEÑARANDA DE DUERO

Pick up in Madrid and transfer to the picturesque village of **Peñaranda de Duero**, where we will start our journey following the course of the Douro River to its mouth in Oporto. We will have lunch at an “**asador**” type restaurant, where we will taste one of the most typical castilian dishes: “lechazo” (suckling lamb roasted in a wood-fired oven). In the afternoon we will visit the **old town**, including its **castle**, its collegiate church and the **Palace of Avellaneda**. We will spend the night in a small historic hotel in the village center.



Day 2.

PEÑARANDA - MONASTERIO DE VALBUENA

Early departure to the site of **Clunia Sulpicia**, the well preserved vestiges of an **important Roman city** dating from the first century A.D. We will visit the city in the company of an expert guide and have lunch at the end in a typical Castilian “mesón”. In the afternoon we will move to the **Monastery of Valbuena**, a jewel of religious architecture from the 12th century, almost 900 years old, and within it, the hotel where we will spend the next two nights. There will be time to visit the monastery or enjoy its magnificent spa.

Day 3.

MONASTERIO DE VALBUENA - PEÑAFIEL

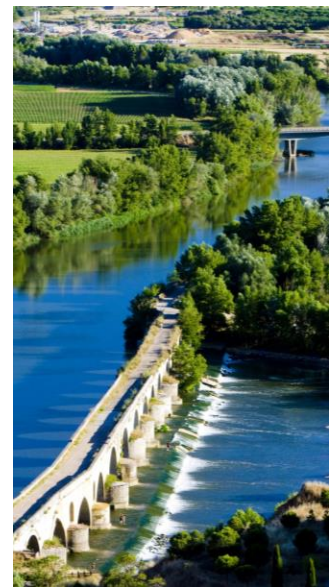
On this day we will travel to the town of Peñafiel, where some of the most important wineries of the **D.O. Ribera del Duero** are located, an appellation of origin that includes some of the best Spanish wines. We will have a **private visit to the vineyards** and facilities of a renowned winery, where we will learn about the entire wine production process, from the cultivation of the grapes all the way to the wine glass and enjoy a wine tasting. We will move on to have lunch at a nearby restaurant run by prominent chefs, where we will enjoy a tasting menu. In the afternoon we will relax again at the Monasterio de Valbuena hotel where we will spend the night.



Day 4.

MONASTERIO DE VALBUENA - TORO

In the morning we will travel to the town of Rueda, entering another appellation of origin linked to the course of the Douro River, the **D.O. Rueda**. There we will have the opportunity to visit **Bodegas Mocén**, built on ancient underground galleries more than five centuries old. We will visit their vineyards, taste their magnificent white wines and have lunch in the winery itself. If we are lucky, we will be accompanied by the owner himself during our private tour. After lunch we will travel to **Toro**, where we will stay in a hotel overlooking the Douro River. We will visit its charming **old town** and have dinner in one of its "tascas".



Day 5.

TORO - BARCA D'ALVA (PORTUGAL)

We would be now in a new appellation of origin of wines from the Douro, the **D.O. Toro**, whose winemaking tradition dates back to times before the Roman domination and where we will have a private visit to one of the most renowned wineries in Spain. After lunch we will leave by road towards the Portuguese border, crossing it until we reach the town of Freixo de Espada à Cinta, located within the **Douro International Natural Park**. We will stay in a local hotel, with a nice spa, and begin to enjoy portuguese food.

Day 6.

BARCA D'ALVA - PINHAO (CRUISE)

After breakfast we will go to the pier, where we will embark on a **private cruise**. During the whole day we will sail along the Douro River, between rocky outcrops, enjoying the **landscapes and wildlife** of the **Douro International Natural Park**. We will have wine and snacks on board, stop at a riverside restaurant and disembark in the town of Pinhao, whose small cellars produce some of the best Port wines in the world. We will have time to stroll around the town or rest at the hotel.



Day 7.

PINHAO - PORTO

During the morning we will visit a **local family-owned winery** making a variety of **D.O Douro wines**. As it will be grape-harvesting season, we will be able to see the work in the farm and we will have lunch in the family house. Then we will travel by road from Pinhao to **Porto**, one of the most beautiful cities in Portugal, on the mouth of the Douro River. We will stay in a centrally located hotel and enjoy a **free evening** to stroll around this beautiful city.

Day 8. PORTO

Free day for travelers to explore the wonderful city of Porto at their leisure. A stroll along the Ribeira, the Stock Exchange Palace, the Clérigos Tower, the Cathedral, the Crystal Palace gardens, its historic wine cellars... Porto is a monumental city that leaves no one indifferent. In the evening, we will meet all travelers in **Figueira da Foz**, where the Douro River ends its journey pouring its waters into the Atlantic Ocean. There we will also end ours, with a farewell dinner in one of its restaurants specialized in **pairing D.O. Porto wines and sea food**.



THE TRIP INCLUDES

- Private road and boat transfers from Madrid to Porto (transfers or flights after Oporto not included, although IVERYAN can help make the reservation).
- Accommodation in the best hotels throughout the trip. On nights 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 we will stay in 5* hotels, some of them with spa. The rest of the nights will be spent in local comfortable hotels, within the best offer in each area.
- Breakfasts at the hotel, lunches in local restaurants and dinners in restaurants or "de tapas" in typical taverns. This is a trip in which the gastronomic experience is a priority, so the restaurants have been carefully selected to enjoy the typical food of each of the regions through which we will travel. The price does not include lunch on the free day in Porto (day 8).
- Visits to historical sites, monuments, vineyards, wineries, etc. All visits will be in private groups and are included in the program price, except for those that each traveler decides to do on their free day in Porto (day 8).

Throughout the program, the group will be accompanied by one or two IVERYAN guides (depending on the size of the group), who will assist the travelers in everything they need, from their pick-up in Madrid to their farewell in Porto.

The travel program is indicative, and is subject to modifications depending on weather conditions, delays, cancellations, temporary closure of any of the accommodations or places to visit or any other circumstance beyond IVERYAN's control. However, the essence of the trip will remain unchanged and possible modifications will not substantially affect the experience.

8 days – 8 nights

Dates and prices:

Spring: March to May
 Fall: September and October
 Price according to dates, group size and final program.

This program has been designed by Iveryan and is modifiable to the clients' requirements.

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