

# Pacific Horticulture invites you join THE SPLENDOR OF PORTUGUESE GARDENS

From Porto to Lisbon

October 1-9, 2022

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30: USA-PORTUGAL

Travel day. Fly to Porto.



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1: PORTO.

Individual morning arrivals to the city of Porto where the harmony between the architecture and the landscape creates an urban environment of singular beauty. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996, Transfer by taxi to the **Hotel Infante de Sagres**, a Porto classic that has been handsomely renewed, owned by the Taylor wine family. Check-in for our 3-night stay. Information folders will be provided which include maps, literature and restaurant & shopping tips.



**Hotel Infante de Sagres**  
Praça D. Filipa de Lencastre  
62,  
4050-259 Porto, Portugal  
Tel: +351 22 339 8500

Meet Sofia Barroso, our tour leader and lecturer, in the late afternoon for a welcome coffee and introduction to the history, culture and gardens of the region.

We'll enjoy a walking tour to explore Porto's heritage in the historic quarter of town.

We visit the **Son Bento Train Station & Cathedral**, and drive to **Carmo Church, Clerigos Church & Lello Bookshop**.

Later we will enjoy a stroll through the **Cidade Park** and the **Crystal Palace gardens**, with great views of the Douro River. The gardens were originally designed to complement the first crystal palace by Emilio David, a renowned landscape architect. The gardens are a melting pot of exotic trees and plants, fountains, ponds, statues, and peacocks. Some of the most popular flora include rhododendrons, camellias, pines, ginkgos, and lime trees. There are also several themed gardens including the Jardim dos Sentimentos (garden of feelings), Jardim das Plantas Aromaticas (garden of aromatic plants), Jardim do Roseiral (rose garden) and the Quinta da Macieirinha (little apple tree estate).



We will drive downtown to Baixa to visit the Baroque Church of St. Francisco and view the Riveira quarter. Drive to Vila Nova da Gaia where the Port Wine Lodges are located for our welcome dinner at **Vinum Restaurant** at **Graham's winery**, where we will enjoy a meal with paired wines. Return to the hotel.

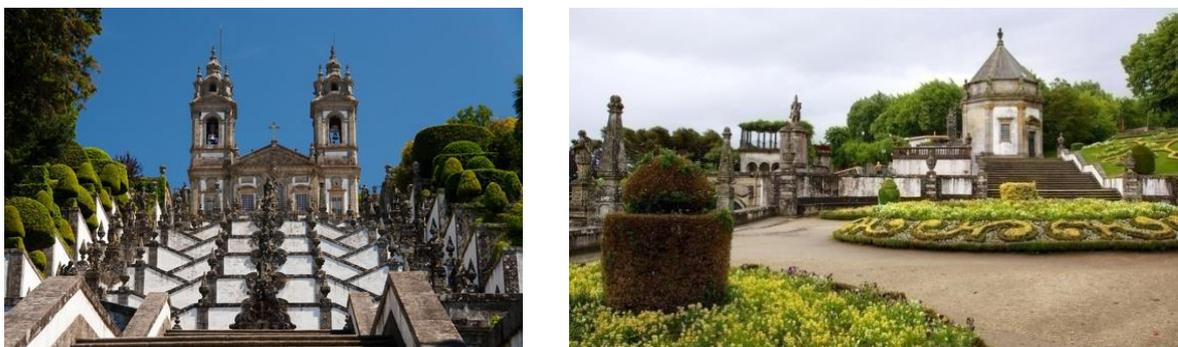
## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2: PORTO-SANTO TIRSO-BRAGA-PORTO.**

Departure by coach to visit **Quinta do Casal**, private home and camellia garden of Manuel Gil. We will be welcomed by Manuel Gil and his sister Clara, both camellia experts. Coffee and refreshments will be hosted. (Quinta means country property in Portugal and Argentina).

We drive to **Braga**, an important city on the pilgrimage way. Lunch will take place at the **private home of Mario and Paola Sequeira** in the Tibaes quarter. Visit the gallery, and its wonderful park and gardens with site-specific sculpture.



After lunch we will visit the Baroque Church, garden and beautiful staircase of the **Bom Jesus del Monte**, one of Portugal's most important shrines on the Portuguese St. James Way.



We will finish our day at the beautiful **private Quinta of Teresa Andresen**, president of the Portuguese Historic Gardens and former president of the Botanical Garden of Porto. We will be greeted by Teresa and her charming husband Luis to see her garden followed by tea and a tasting of Portuguese specialties.

We return to Porto . Dinner on our own. (We will find a list of restaurants in our information folder).

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 3: PORTO- LOUSADA- PORTO.**

Departure by coach to the lovely town of **Vila Real**, where we enter the magnificent **Douro Valley**, whose landscape of vines and vineyards is inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites. The landscape of the Douro is very much a part of its history and heritage with terraces shaped by man almost as if it were a series of gardens.



We'll tour the **Mateus Palace and Gardens**. Built in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, it's one of the most extraordinary baroque house in the whole of Europe designed by Italian-born architect Nasoni. The gardens of the house descend in terraces of box trees complete with a complex arrangement of flower beds. A tunnel of cypress trees arrives as a surprise and we head along a magnificent path formed by vaulted, verdant foliage. At the end of our stroll we will discover a truly beautiful arrangement of box trees, the shape of which fans out from a Hinoki cypress tree (*Chamaeyparis oculata*) in a series of flutes, arches and arabesques.



After our visit, we continue to the town of Lousada and **Casa de Juste**, charming country home and farm of the Guedes family. On arrival we will enjoy welcome coffee with owners, Ana & Fernando Guedes. The Guedes are a prominent family of Northern Portugal and owners of Sogrape, one of the biggest wine companies of the country with also presence in Spain, Chile, Argentina and New Zealand. Fernando is an active member of the Portuguese association of historic gardens. After a stroll through the lovely garden and farmland, we will enjoy a lesson of Portuguese cooking by Ana where we will prepare our own traditional Portuguese lunch.



Later we drive to the **Serralves Foundation**, composed of two buildings in a spectacular park. The original building was a project designed by the Portuguese architect José Marques da Silva. It is an elegant Art Déco building with magnificent gardens designed by French architect Jacques Gréber surrounding it. The new Foundation building was designed by the great Portuguese Architect, Alvaro Siza Vieira. We will walk through the foundation's beautiful Park and its sight-specific sculptures by Oldenburg, Serra, among others. We will also meet the head gardener and have a "tree top walk".



We return to the hotel with **free time for shopping**.

**Dinner on our own.** We suggest dinner at **Casa do Chá do Boa Nova**, by chef Rui Paula. The restaurant is located in a beautiful iconic building by Pritzker prize architect Alvaro Siza facing the ocean.



## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4: PORTO-SANTAR-LISBON.**

Morning departure to the wine-producing village of **Santar** in the wine region of Dao, where Spanish top landscape architect Fernando Caruncho is doing his first Portuguese project.

Located at the heart of the Dão Wine region, Santar is a small village of 1000 inhabitants, known for its beautiful manor houses and centuries-old palaces. It offers a unique combination of religious and noble architecture, terroir, wonderful natural landscapes and winemaking traditions. It is also home to a constellation of magnificent historical gardens which have been restored and united under a single landscape plan designed by the celebrated Spanish landscape architect Fernando Caruncho.

Upon arrival in Santar we will lunch at **Paço das Cunhas** restaurant with **Jose Luis de Vasconcelos, Count of Santar**, who will explain this beautiful project.

After lunch we will visit Caruncho's new community gardens and delightful vineyards, the palace's historic Baroque garden, and explore the village.



We continue to Lisbon. On arrival in Lisbon, we check-in to the charming **Hotel Bairro Alto**, located in the middle of this beautiful area where all the shops and antiques stores are located.

<https://www.bairroaltohotel.com/pt> **Dinner on our own.**



## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5: LISBON.**

We depart by coach to explore **Lisbon's unique artistic heritage and history**. Our visit will focus on the role that the city played during the Discovery Era, starting a global dissemination of plants and spices around the world. Lisbon is, without doubt, a charming capital city. Singular monuments are scattered through an urban landscape unlike any other, and gardens and beautiful viewpoints open up extraordinary views over the river Tagus. We include the Botanical gardens of Ajuda followed by a visit to UNESCO monuments in Belém area, **Jerónimos Church and cloister** and **Belém Tower**, both finest examples of Manueline Architecture, a unique late gothic style in Portugal.

**Lunch is at Darwin Restaurant** at the Champalimaud Foundation located in a spectacular building by the recently deceased Indian architect Charles Correa, on the banks of the Tagus River.

This afternoon we travel along the coast of Lisbon to see the new Museum of Art, Architecture & Technology. The new building is by English architect Amanda Levete. We will see its roof top garden based in wild grasses is landscaped by Vladimir Djurovic. We return to the hotel with **Free time for shopping**.



Optional visit to the **Tile Museum** with Sofia.

Evening departure by taxis for a **Fado** dinner and singing at **Casa de Frades**. Return by taxi.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6: LISBON- SINTRA-LISBON.

Departure by coach to the Sierra of **Sintra**. On arrival we'll enjoy coffee at **Seteais Palace**, where we will see its lovely gardens and fruit trees. The Seteais Palace was built between 1783 and 1787 for the Dutch consul Daniel Gildemeester, on lands granted by the Marquis of Pombal. The consul chose to build his house on the border of an elevation, from which the vast landscape around the Sintra hills could be admired. Return to Lisbon.

Next we visit the **Palace of Monserrate** and gardens. This is one of the most beautiful architectural and landscape Romantic creations in Portugal, unique representatives of 19<sup>th</sup> century eclecticism.

The Palace combines gothic and Indian influences as well as Moorish suggestions together with exotic and plant motifs which are harmoniously extended to the exterior. The gardens have received species from all corners of the world, which were planted according to their geographical origin.

At noon we will visit **Royal Palace of Sintra** with its lovely *azulejo* collection, magnificent ceilings and patios. Lunch will be at the **Quinta de São Sabastião**, the **private country home of the late Countess of Asseca**. We will meet her son Salvador.



Later we visit the private **Quinta da Alegria** and its extraordinary gardens by kind arrangement of owner, Princess von Auersperg. Her head gardener and landscape architect, Markus Trippo, will guide us around this unique property. Refreshments will be served.



We return to Lisbon. **Dinner on our own.**

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7: LISBON- QUELUZ- LISBON.

Our first visit today is to the **Gulbenkian Foundation's museum and gardens**. The museum was especially designed for selected exhibits from the private collection of the late Calouste Gulbenkian, Armenian oil tycoon. The park was designed by the landscape architects Gonalo Ribeiro Telles and Ant3nio Viana Barreiro in close collaboration with Alberto Pessoa, Pedro Cid and Ruy Athouguia who were architects of the buildings of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. This wide-ranging museum collection covers various periods and areas: Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Islamic and Oriental art, old coins and European painting and decorative arts. The phrase "only the best" accurately defines the criteria by which Gulbenkian was guided, and the passionate affection he developed for the objects.



Departure for **lunch and visit of the Palacio Fronteira**.

This is top-notch garden in Portugal, a place of real harmony and beauty that reflects the ideals of the Italian Renaissance. The decorative profusion of azulejos collected here provides a special surprise – the polychromatic paintwork mixing the picaresque with the humorous to impressive effect. The fountains and baroque sculptures of the garden make it one of the most interesting examples of its kind from the 18th century, and something not to be missed. It is still privately owned by the Mascarenha family. Built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, its rooms have exceptional decorative tile work, frescoes panels, and oil paintings. The famous Hall of Battles has been called the Sistine Chapel of tile work. We will visit the formal gardens with fountains, statues, and more examples of the finest tile work. This palace is one of the most important showpieces of Portuguese decorative art and one of the best examples of Portuguese Baroque gardens. Our guest will be landscape architect: **Cristina Castelbranco**, author of the new wing of the garden and of the most prestigious landscape architects in Portugal.



We continue by coach to stroll through the **Queluz gardens**, renowned for its sculptures, ornate fountains and waterfalls, a Grand Canal, numerous lakes, and ceramic tiles—or *azulejos*—decorated with historic scenes, it is a marvel of hydraulics, with extensive systems providing water to the garden, the fountains, and palace. Pathways are graced by Italian and British sculptures, many portraying mythological themes, and a set of lead sculptures by British artist John Cheere.



We return to Lisbon. **Dinner on our own.**

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8: LISBON- SETUBAL-LISBON.**

We'll take a scenic ride across the Tagus to the Azeitao region surrounding the town of Setubal. We visit the gardens of **Quinta da Bacalhoa**, one of the oldest and most beautiful Gardens of Portugal. Based on a simple pattern of geometric squares, the gardens are fashioned out of carefully manicured boxwood - a living sculpture that requires a lot of maintenance but works well in this very arid climate. (There are no flowering plants since they require plenty of water.) The remarkably ornate garden is arranged around a central fountain. Each parterre displays a different boxwood pattern, and each has a distinct meaning: an "R" at the center of one symbolizes *rei*, which means king of Portugal. Topiaries in the form of slender obelisks punctuate the courtyard garden and add height and interest when viewed at eye level. The space exudes a calm elegance that provides an artful counterpoint to the home's simple geometric forms. A tall yew hedge surrounds the garden on three sides, giving the area a peaceful seclusion. Just beyond the courtyard gardens stands a stately orange grove. The orange tree is evergreen in this climate, and here, planted in an area that's lower than the pavement, you always see a canopy of green. In Portugal where land is scarce, having function as well as form is a critical design and philosophical principle.



After our visit we will visit a **Azulejo/Tile workshop** and have a **tasting of Bacalhoa wines** at its winery.

We will have **lunch at Quinta das Machadas, private home of garden of Hugo & Carmen O'Neill de Clanaboy**. Hugo is president of the historic homes of Portugal. Dating back from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and well-known for its citrus fruits. The system of irrigation, tanks, water features, gutters and the *nora* (a Moorish water wheel) now lovingly restored, are fine examples of an ancient heritage.

We return to Lisbon crossing the Impressive Ponte Vasco de Gama, Europe's longest bridge. We will explore the impressive face lift of the Tagus Estuary in the last years. We start by the grounds of the **EXPO 2008** with its building by Santiago Calatrava (Orient Train Station) and Alvaro Siza.

Tonight we join Sofia and our new friends for a **light dinner of drinks and finger food at the hotel**.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9: LISBON -USA.** Flights back to the U.S.A.

### **LAND COST PER GUEST BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:**

Based on a minimum of 18 guests \$6892 per person for Pacific

Horticulture members \$6992 for non-members

Single supplement \$1020

### **TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 8 night's accommodation, all rooms with private bathrooms
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast daily, 7 lunches and 3 dinners as noted in the itinerary (in Portugal lunch is often the main meal of the day)
- Deluxe transportation by private motor coach
- Special English speaking escort and local guides
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Escorted by Linda McKendry, landscape designer
- Tax deductible donation of \$350 to Pacific Horticulture

### **COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- Airfare
- Tips to your guide & driver
- Travel Insurance

For reservations and further information contact:

Sterling Tours, Ltd [cheryl@sterlingtoursltd.com](mailto:cheryl@sterlingtoursltd.com) 619 299-3010 x10