



Catocin Creek presents an insiders foodie tour of **Southern Portugal, the Alentejo**

March 24th to 30th, 2025

Come find out why Travel & Leisure Magazine, the Wall Street Journal and many others are falling in love with Portugal. With the UNESCO World Heritage town of Évora as a base for 6 nights, we will venture in all directions exploring the gastronomic and cultural treasures of the Alentejo. We will visit the fairytale walled village of Monsaraz, the marble town of Estremoz with its bustling Saturday market, a pre-historic megalith that pre-dates Stonehenge by 2,000 years, all the while discovering the wines and dishes that are putting Alentejo on the map.

This trip includes:

- Accommodations in a five-star hotel
- Breakfast daily
- Daily long lunch or dinner (includes food, wine, after dinner drink & gratuity)
Our experience is an exceptional lunch or dinner is sufficient.
- Wine tastings – all, generally including tapas
- Transportation – all
- Admission and entrance fees – all

Does not include:

- Airfare
- Trip insurance, if applicable

Cost per person: \$3,400

Single travelers welcome. If you prefer a single room, additional charge is \$700.

6 nights in the Alentejo

Limited to 10 double occupancy rooms.

Arriving early or extending your stay

Lisbon is a city that can easily be explored on your own. You can easily spend a week in Lisbon if you have the time.

If you would like to extend your trip or arrive early, our local travel partners are happy to assist with hotel recommendations and things to see and do. All the flights to Portugal from the United States are overnight flights. Please plan to arrive in Lisbon no later than the Sunday before the tour starts.

Current Itinerary

Pick up and drop off in Lisbon

On Monday, we will pick you up at 10 30 am at a location in the center of Lisbon. All hotels are within a short taxi or uber ride of our pickup location.

On last day of tour, Sunday, we will drop you off in Lisbon at 10 am. If you need transportation to a different destination and/or at a different time, we can coordinate the transport for you. The cost varies depending on distance.

Day 1 - Monday

Private group bus will meet you at our pickup location in Lisbon at 10 30 am and take you to lunch in the small village of Arraiolos, where we will dine on very traditional dishes from the Alentejo.

We will then head off to our first wine tasting at Monte de Pintor.

We will then make the short drive to our hotel in Evora. In the evening, we will offer a short walking tour of Évora to acquaint you to the city. Surely seeing the nearly 2,000 year old Roman temple lit up at night is a highlight.

Fala Português?

You can begin each morning with a fun informative half hour Portuguese lesson.

Day 2 - Tuesday

Cultural stop over: You will learn why cork is such an incredible sustainable resource. We will visit a cork forest led by the always jovial, interesting Andreia. You will never look at a wine cork in the same way again!

Lunch & wine tasting: We will then stop at Senhor Daurindo's for a super traditional Alentejo feast accompanied by some very local wines.

More culture: On the way back to our home base, we will stop by at the pre-historic megalith, Cromeleque dos Almendres: a stone circle that predates Stonehenge by 2000 years. At almost 8,000 years old it definitely puts things in perspective.

Day 3 - Wednesday

Cultural stop: A guided visit to the royal summer palace in Vila Viçosa.

Wine tasting: Howard's Folly. Funny name, serious wine. Lead winemaker David Baverstock is better known for running the wine operation at Esporão. But Howard's Folly is a new, small venture by David's good friend, Howard who lived for 30 years in Hong Kong.

Lunch: Innovative Chef Bernardo creates perfect dishes to pair with Howard's wines.

Day 4 - Thursday

Cultural stop over: the fairytale village of Monsaraz. One of the best-preserved villages in the country. If it were anywhere else, it would be mobbed with tourists year-round. We will stop in the pottery town of São Pedro do Corval along the way for some shopping.

Lunch: We will have an easy and light tapas lunch as we taste the simple but delicious creations of Rui at Gaspacho. Of course, plenty of wine (and beer) will be present.

We are going to have a special musical performance today. Feel free to dance!

You have a free afternoon to explore Evora and all its nooks and crannies.

Day 5 - Friday

Wine: Visit our friends at Quinta do Quetzal who love both art and wine. Our visit will be led by winery head, Reto Jorg.

Lunch: João Mourato, head chef at Quetzal, may receive a Michelin star one day. You will not believe he is only 26!!

Cultural highlight: the Roman Villa of São Cucufate has been standing for over 1,800 years.

Day 6 - Saturday

Cultural stop over: We will visit one of the oldest outdoor markets in Europe in the marble town of Estremoz.

Winery tasting: Owner, winemaker Luis Louro of Monte Branco was practically born into the wine business. Luis has strong opinions about winemaking and looks forward to sharing them with you. It also helps that his tasting area offers a glorious view of the countryside.

Lunch: Luis is going to show off and cook a leg of lamb for the group.

Day 7 - Sunday

Early breakfast, check out and transfer back to Lisbon airport. Most of you will be departing on a noon flight that day, therefore you will be leaving the Évora hotel at around 8 am.

If you are staying in the country, breakfast is at your leisure.

We can help you in booking transfers at other times and to different locations. Just let us know what you are looking for.