2016 Final Blending Event

The Douro Valley Sessions

March 1st – 4th 2018

VINIV

BORDEAUX

The Douro Valley Sessions

At the 2015 Vintage Rioja Sessions, many VINIV winemakers were ready to keep moving directly west to Portugal. And with good reason: The Douro valley was, in 1756, the first demarcated and regulated wine region in the world. It has also been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage since 2001.

We plan to take full advantage of the fact that our winemaker Daniel Llose spends a lot of time advising properties in Portugal – so he is guiding us to 'la crème de la crème' which is what VINIV is all about. This promises to be a memorable final blending event.

Programme

THE DOURO VALLEY SESSIONS

MARCH 1st – 4th 2018

Thursday, March 1st

ARRIVAL IN PORTO & TRANSFER TO DOURO VALLEY

We request that you arrive to the Porto airport (OPO) by late afternoon on Thursday so that you are settled and acclimatised in time for the main programme the following day. We will be organising relaxed welcome dinners in each of the properties that evening. The format will be flexible to allow you to manage according to your arrival time and/or level of jet lag.

Transfer options from the airport to your hotel in the Douro Valley are outlined in this programme.

Friday, March 2nd

BLENDING SESSIONS & QUINTA VISITS

Friday is reserved for final blending with sessions running simultaneously throughout the day in three wineries: Quinta do Vallado (Peso da Régua), Quinta do Crasto (Sabrosa) and Quinta Nova (Covas do Douro). We will also be offering guided visits of these wineries and a light lunch. Lorraine Carrigan will discuss your blending times and venue after you register..

In the evening, the group will meet at Chef Rui Paula's DOC restaurant situated on the banks of the Douro River. Since opening in 2007, it has been rated as one of the best restaurants in the region and was recently named *'the'* best restaurant in Portugal and 15th best restaurant in the world on the 2017 Trip Advisor List. We have privatised the restaurant for an evening of exquisite Portuguese food and wine.

Transport will be provided to and from the restaurant.

Saturday, March 3rd

TRANSFER TO PORTO

Based on feedback from previous events, we are conscious that it is important to find a balance between winery visits and other activities. We will, therefore, be offering you the option of heading to Porto on Saturday morning to ensure that you have enough time to discover this impossibly beautiful city, or book yourself into the Caudalie Spa at The Yeatman Hotel.

We will be providing a minibus to Porto. However, if you would prefer to travel by train along the Linha do Douro – which is considered to be one of the most picturesque railways in Europe – we can ensure that your luggage is delivered to The Yeatman Hotel (where the VINIV programme finishes).

Saturday, March 3rd

(CONTINUED)

ONE LAST VISIT: QUINTA DO NOVAL

For those who choose to do one last winery visit before leaving the Valley, we have arranged a private tour of Quinta do Noval. The visit and tasting will be followed by a lunch at the property.

A return trip to The Yeatman Hotel in Porto has been arranged with arrival by the late afternoon.

Please note that the tour and lunch is an additional €65 per person, and there are only 25 places available.

Saturday, March 3rd

(CONTINUED)

DINNER AT TAYLOR'S PORT LODGE

As you will have visited the vineyards and the wineries of the Douro, it seems only fitting that you complete the journey to explore the famous Port Lodges in Vila Nova de Gaia, opposite Porto. We will meet for a visit of Taylor's Port Lodge before having a relaxed, typical Portuguese dinner in the cellars.

Arrival and Transport Options

THE DOURO VALLEY SESSIONS

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Arrival

THURSDAY, 1st MARCH 2018

We ask that you arrive to the Porto airport (OPO) by late afternoon on Thursday (March 1st), as there is a two-hour drive from the airport.

If you prefer to arrive a couple of days earlier and would like to stay in one of the accommodation options mentioned below, please let us know.

Transport Options

OPTION A: HIRING A CAR

If you wish to hire a car, we recommend the usual international operators (Europcar, Hertz or Sixt), which have reception desks situated in the main arrivals hall. Please note that you will need to take a free shuttle to an off-site car park which will add about one hour to your journey.

We recommend that you take the automatic toll option with the hired car which will be debited automatically at the end of your rental, otherwise you will need to go to a post office and pay for your tolls within three days. You heard right, you want to avoid this.

Transport Options

(CONTINUED)

OPTION B: ARRANGING FOR A TRANSFER

If you are coming in strictly for the VINIV programme, for your comfort we recommend you opt for a pre-booked shuttle that will meet you at the arrivals hall. The programme will bring you back to Porto by either bus or train.

To pre-book this option, please provide us with your flight details (within the registration form) and specify whether you prefer a private or shared option.

Private options

Car for two	250€/car
Six seater	350€/car

Shared

Minibus	60€/person

Transport Options

(CONTINUED)

OUR RECOMMENDATION

Having done this journey in a hire car, we strongly recommend that you take the chauffeur-driven option, as the landscape is sometimes so utterly breath-taking that it may be hard to keep your eyes on the road.

Transport will be provided throughout your stay in the Douro Valley and back to Porto where the programme finishes. We will be staying at the Yeatman Hotel in Porto, or more specifically in Vila Nova de Gaia.

Please note that you will need to arrange your transport with the hotel for your return flights home.

Event Cost

THE DOURO VALLEY SESSIONS

MARCH 1st – 4th 2018

Event Cost

The event cost – which includes transport, meals, blending sessions and quinta visits – is €1,700 per person. This price does not include accommodation.

Optional Activity
Visit and lunch at Quinta do Noval - € 75 per person.

We have provisionally privatised the properties on the following pages. For logistical reasons - linked to your blending sessions and groups - we kindly request that you inform Lorraine Carrigan of your accommodation preference. Lorraine will come back to you shortly before you book directly with the wineries/hotels.

REGISTER HERE FOR THE DOURO VALLEY SESSIONS

Accommodation

The Douro Valley Sessions

March 1st – 4th 2018

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The Douro Valley Accommodation Options

THE DOURO VALLEY SESSIONS

MARCH 1st – 3rd 2018

The Douro Valley Accommodation Options

Having scouted around the Valley for several days, we feel that staying in a quinta will provide you with the most authentic experience. We have selected three that we loved: Quinta do Vallado, Quinta do Crasto and Quinta Nova. We've also included one luxury hotel.

One of our winemakers will be based in each of these properties where the blending sessions will take place on Friday, March 2nd.

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The Douro Valley Accommodation Options

(CONTINUED)

When you are not blending, you can choose between visiting selected wineries, relaxing in your quinta or organising your own activity. Please note that any requests outside of the programme may be subject to additional costs.

We have provisionally privatised the properties on the following pages. For logistical reasons - linked to your blending sessions and groups - we kindly request that you inform Lorraine Carrigan of your accommodation preference. She will come back to you shortly before you book directly with the wineries/hotels.

Option 1 – Quinta do Vallado

LOCATED IN PESO DA RÉGUA

Quinta do Vallado is an enticing mix of ancient and modern. Established in 1716, it's one of the oldest properties in the Douro Valley and still belongs to the Ferreira family. After concentrating on the production of fortified Port wine for over 200 years, the family expanded into still (dry) wine production in 1993 and completed a strikingly modern winery in 2009.

The family has also been running a 'wine hotel' since 2005. The rooms are split between two buildings: five rooms in the fully-modernised, 18th century, yellow-ochre Manor House, and 8 rooms in the strikingly modern wing, built in local slate.

Link to Quinta do Vallado Website

Option 1 – Quinta do Vallado

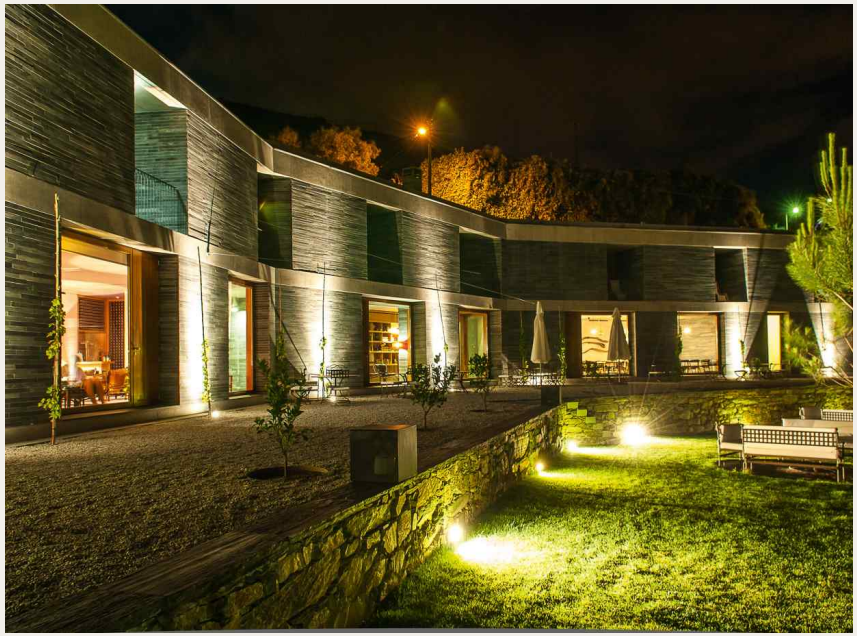
LOCATED IN PESO DA RÉGUA

ROOMS

7 rooms @ €140/night

3 rooms @ €160/night

2 rooms @ €180/night



Option 2 – Quinta do Crasto

LOCATED IN SABROSA

Quinta do Crasto has been owned by the Roquette family for over a century, with the earliest mentions of its wine production dating back to 1615. Its name derives from the Latin ‘castrum’, which means fort, and explains its dominant hilltop position with terraced vineyards on either side. The views are breath-taking, whichever way you look, especially from their famous pool terrace.

The fourth generation of the Roquette family formed a joint venture with the Cazes family in 2002 to create the award-winning Xisto wines. This is the Daniel Llose’s home away from home.

Quinta do Crasto is the smallest of the three quintas with only 4 double rustic bedrooms. Unlike Quinta do Vallado and Quinta Nova, these recently renovated rooms aren’t available to members of the public, so this is a VINIV member exclusive.

Link to Quinta do Crasto Website

Option 2 – Quinta do Crasto

LOCATED IN SABROSA

ROOMS

4 double rooms @ €160/night

Option 3 – Quinta Nova Luxury Winery House

LOCATED IN COVAS DO DOURO

Not far from Quinta do Crasto lies the Quinta Nova development. Quinta Nova is said to have belonged to the Royal House in 1725 and has been owned by the Amorim family since 1999, who are perhaps more famous for their cork manufacturing business.

The estate again offers commanding views over the valley, with vineyards reaching a maximum altitude of 297m, and a 45° gradient! The Luxury House Winery pioneered wine tourism when it opened in 2005 as the first wine hotel in Portugal. The 19th-century manor house includes 11 rooms, decorated in period style with local antique furniture. There are also several open spaces where you can relax and soak up the views. The estate also includes the Conceitus restaurant, a wine bar, the tiniest of chapels and a small, newly-opened museum.

Link to Quinta Nova Website

Option 3 – Quinta Nova Luxury Winery House

LOCATED IN COVAS DO DOURO

ROOMS

5 terrace rooms @ €180/night

6 premium rooms in the main manor house @ €215/night

Option 4 – Vintage House Hotel

LOCATED IN PINHAO

Even though all of the quinta properties have been renovated to the highest standards, we are conscious that some of you may prefer to be in a more traditional hotel environment.

For those of you who do prefer a hotel, we recommend the Vintage House, situated along the banks of the Douro River in Pinhão.

We have a limited number of rooms reserved at a special rate, however, please do note that the hotel is often very busy as it is the only luxury hotel in the region.

Link to Vintage House Hotel Website

Option 4 – Vintage House Hotel

LOCATED IN PINHAO

ROOMS

Single & Double Occupancy

Standard	€149 & €162/night
Junior Suite	€176 & €189/night
Suite Deluxe	€239 & €252/night
Master Suite	€311 & €324/night

Porto Accommodation

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The Yeatman Hotel

LOCATED IN PORTO - ON THE VILA DE GAIA SIDE

On Saturday night, we will move from the heart of the Douro Valley into Porto itself. The Yeatman is widely regarded as ‘the’ place to stay in Porto. Its unique location, carved into the steep slope on the Vila Nova de Gaia side, means that all rooms have magnificent views of the Douro river and the old town of Porto. Wine is omnipresent in the hotel, from the discretely themed rooms, to the displays along the corridors and the Caudalie spa.

Despite the 70 rooms, this is a hotel that is in high demand. Please quote VINIV when booking to ensure that you receive our specially negotiated rates, which are also applicable should you wish to extend your stay.

You will also receive a 10% discount on spa treatments, but please think to book ahead.

Link to The Yeatman Hotel Website

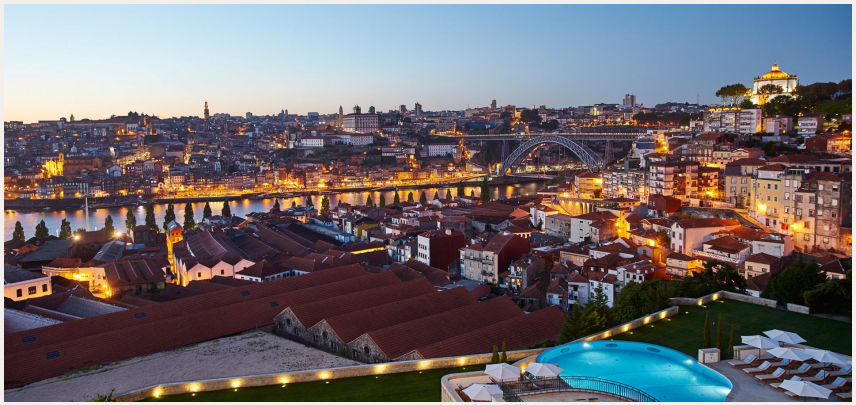
The Yeatman Hotel

LOCATED IN PORTO - ON THE VILA DE GAIA SIDE

ROOMS

Single & Double Occupancy

Executive	€206 & €221/night
Superior	€233 & €248/night
Suite	€413 & €428/night
Master Suite	€570 & €585/night



The Douro Valley Sessions

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