

PRIVATE PORTUGAL

OCTOBER 18 TO OCTOBER 27, 2000



JESSICA DEUTSCH'S  
ARTS TO LIFE  
CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

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The key to unlocking the North of Portugal is having as our guide the senior public relations director for Graham's Port direct our party to all of the North's wonderful sites and splendor. We will have the opportunity to explore the famous wine and port producing vineyards, workshops that make the finest ceramics in Portugal, and finding jewelry makers whose work is as fine as that of the best French houses. On this trip not only do we sample some of the best vintage ports but we also enjoy breathtaking scenery and local hospitality. For those who visit Oporto, its beauty and tranquility immediately are thrust upon you as you walk down its narrow cobbled streets and see its brightly tiled three story buildings; its extravagant churches and equally opulent palaces; or its elegant manor houses with lush gardens. While one speaks of the beauty of Portugal's coastline, for the explorer there is a deeper, more mystical beauty to be found, as we travel upriver to the vine producing slopes of the *Douro River Valley* where one can lose oneself in time. Even more majestic is the *Bussaco Palace*, formerly a royal residence, now a hotel, where you sleep deep in an ancient forest. This is an insider's view of the North of Portugal and an approach not taken by tourist guides. We invite you to join us for a taste of a culture unique unto itself.

*The fee for the program is \$5,850 for double occupancy with a \$600 single supplement. This includes five star hotel accommodation, local travel, and luxurious boat trips, meals and barbecues, port and wine tastings, receptions in private homes, guided tours, entrée to ceramic workshops and entrée to manor houses. The tour is limited to fifteen and is led by Richard Freeman from London and Jackie Van Heusen from Graham's Port along with Jessica Deutsch. A deposit of \$2,000 is due on registration with the balance due August 1, 2000. The deadline for cancellations is August 15, 2000.*

### Wednesday 18th

We arrive in the early afternoon in *Oporto* and check-in at the colonial style *Hotel Infante Sangres*. Outside the hotel, the narrow cobbled streets and brightly tiled buildings, along with the richly decorated churches, invite for an exploration of the old city. Our tour of the city ends with cocktails and fine port at the *Factory House*, once the headquarters of the British Association of Port Wine Shippers. Dinner is in the *Ribeira* section near the river and the most atmospheric part of the city.



### Thursday 19th

We head north to visit *Barcelos* and its local colorful Thursday market. This is the country's leading ceramic and craft fair and allows us the opportunity for seeing the finest ceramics made in Portugal. We continue to the village of *Braga* and then to *Guimarães* the birthplace of Portugal. We visit the magnificent *Paço dos Duques Palace*, which houses a small museum with lavish displays of Persian rugs, Flemish tapestries, and paintings. We travel further up the coast to *Viana de Castelo*, capital of Minho folk culture, where one still finds traditional embroidery. We will be returning to Oporto late in the evening.

### Friday 20th

We will be entertained privately at *The Solar do Vinho do Porto*, a vineyard outside of Oporto. A private luncheon will follow at *Graham's Port Lodge*, a colonial compound, with its owners, the Symington family as our hosts. Following our stay at Graham's Port, we will visit a manor house dating back to the 18th century. Dinner will soon follow as we will be dining in a restaurant by the sea.

### Saturday 21st

An architectural historian will lead our party on a walk through Oporto's most famous historical and architectural sites. Our walk includes the *Casa do Conégo*, famous for its tiles, and the church of *Sao Francisco*, extravagantly baroque with gilded cherubs and cupola. We will enjoy coffee and natas (small custard desserts) at the historic *Majestic Café*. The afternoon is spent in the *Gondomar* section of the city where the ateliers of Portugal's famous goldsmiths are located. Here one finds finely wrought jewelry with precious stones at prices well below market value. As evening approaches, we will be on a sunset cruise on the bay where we may take in the full majesty of Oporto.

### Sunday 22nd

The *Douro River Valley* is famous for its green rolling hills, which end often in steep cliffs that cast their shadow over the smooth wide waters of the river. We take a boat upriver passing many rocky slopes until we reach the steep inclines where the best vines grow. Our trip takes us deep inland to the village of *Pinhao*, where we disembark at the *Vintage House Hotel*, a destination where we might enjoy the tranquility of the Douro valley and old colonial hospitality.

