

# Europe's Best-Kept Secret

*Unwind, wine and dine with a honeymoon in Porto*

By Katie Kelly Bell

Celebrate a fresh, young marriage amidst the charming, old-world rusticity of one of Europe's most charming cities: Porto, Portugal. This quiet, smaller European city is the continent's best-kept secret for romantic, wine-soaked getaways rounded out with modern museums, historic architecture and dazzling scenery.

**STAY:** For the best views of the city, book a stay at **The Yeatman**, Porto's newest luxury hotel. Terraced into a vast swath of hillside overlooking the Douro River and Porto's historic center, this exquisite destination specializes in the port wine experience. The hotel's luxurious appointments include a Caudalie Spa (with wine-centric treatments), plush rooms, indoor and outdoor infinity pools, gracious service, weekly port tastings and winemaker dinners.

**PLAY:** Budget time for a stop at the **Taylor's Port Lodges and Tasting Room**, considered to be the best tasting experience in Porto. The guided tour of the lodges shows you where port is aged and you'll sample the goods in their lovely tasting room surrounded by plush gardens (with roaming peacocks!).

See all of Porto's famous bridges including one designed by Gustave Eiffel (yes, of the Eiffel Tower) and ride in a rabelos, a traditional boat used to transport wine, on a **Douro River Cruise**. Some cruises take you far up into the wilds of the upper Douro, but most are an hour long and provide a nice overall peek at the city.

Soak up some fabulous boutique shopping in The Foz District. Situated where the mouth of the Douro reaches the Atlantic, The Foz is home to the city's largest park. Visit the fortress, **Castelo do Queijo**, which dates back to the 1600's and stroll the Jardim do Passeio Alegre (an amazing beachside garden).

**EAT:** Make reservations at **The Bull and Bear** for gorgeous expressions of Portuguese cuisine such as foie gras soaked in port wine and drizzled with strawberry sauce. For lighter, more casual dining, stop in at one of the endless number of cafes lining the Douro where nibbling and sipping for long hours is encouraged. Or, make your grand finale after a full day a sunset dinner at **Praia da Luz**. This beachside nook boasts a wall of windows with sweeping views of the sea, a seafood-focused menu and fun music.



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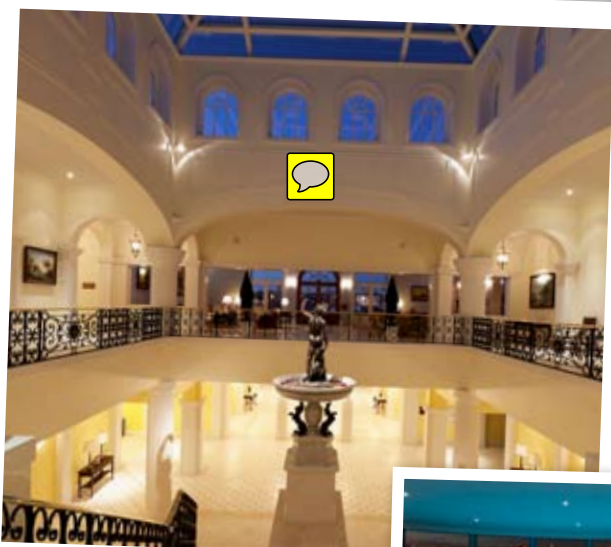


## TIDBITS

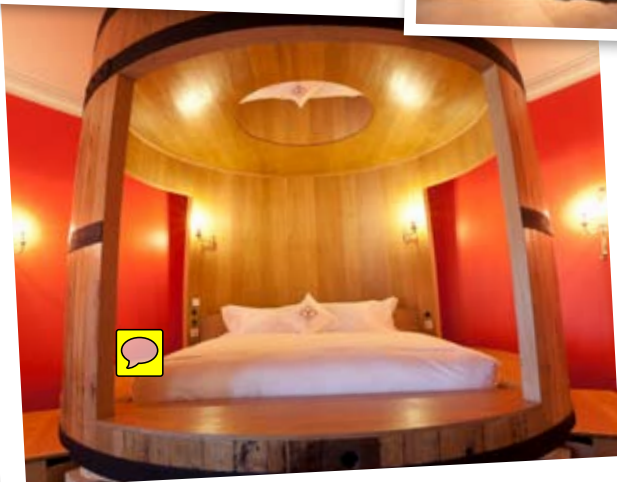
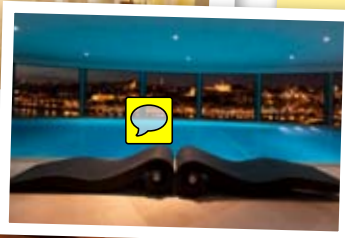
- **AIRPORT:** Porto Airport, OPO
- **TAP Airlines**, the official airline of Portugal, has daily, non-stop flights from Newark, NJ, flytap.com
- Keep the trip stress free and leave the driving to the locals! Streets are winding, steep and utterly confusing to navigate
- Wear comfortable shoes—most every walk in Porto requires some serious uphill schlepping and having on heels will be treacherous to say the least. (You can always pack them in a bag for later.)
- Be sure to taste Baccalau, salted cod, a specialty of Portugal. Sounds weird, but it's delish!



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### CHECK IT OUT:

The Yeatman: [the-yeatman-hotel.com](http://the-yeatman-hotel.com)

Pestana Porto Hotel: [pestana.com](http://pestana.com)

Bull and Bear: 3431 r/c , +351 226 107 669

Praia da Luz: [praiadaluz.pt](http://praiadaluz.pt)

Barao de Fladgate: 223 742 800)

Douro River Cruise: [www.viadouro-cruzeiros.com](http://www.viadouro-cruzeiros.com)

The Foz District: Bus #1 from outside São Bento Station

Taylor's Tasting Room:

<http://taylorsportwinelodges.wordpress.com>

Castelo do Queijo, Praca de Goncalves Zarco (located in the Foz District) Bus #1 from outside São Bento Station