Sunday, March 29: Porto
On arrival in Porto, transfer to our hotel. Check-in is usually at 3:00. In the afternoon, take a half-day panoramic tour of Porto, the second city of Portugal and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has an amphitheater, a riverside area, and historic houses, palaces, and churches. It is also known world-wide for its Port wine.

Michael’s first lecture: Portugal’s History of Winemaking

HOTEL INFANTE SAGRES (D)

Monday, March 30: FD Douro Cruise
We’ll drive from Porto to Pinhão, where we’ll embark on an unforgettable cruise along the Douro, from Porto, with its historic treasures, to the heart of the Douro Valley, its slopes covered with vineyards. We’ll then drive to a quinta, a country home, for lunch and a visit to its winery. Afterward, we’ll visit the well-known Mateus winery, with its noteworthy gardens, before driving back to Porto.

Independent dinner.

HOTEL INFANTE SAGRES (B,L)

Tuesday, March 31: Braga – Guimarães
The day starts with a visit to the city of Guimarães, the birthplace of Portugal, having been chosen as the country’s first city by its first king, Afonso Henriques. Guimarães, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has preserved its medieval atmosphere. In the northern part of the city, we’ll visit the imposing tenth-century castle and the majestic Dukes of Bragança Palace. At our group lunch, we’ll enjoy the pleasures of North Portugal’s cuisine.

In the afternoon we’ll continue to Braga, the oldest religious capital of Portugal. Known to the Romans as Bracara Augusta, for centuries Braga has been an archiepiscopal seat and a pilgrimage site. Stop at Sé, the twelfth-century cathedral built by Henri de Bourgogne and Dona Teresa. Then we’ll head to the Bom Jesus Sanctuary, a hilltop pilgrimage site. The 581 steps that pilgrims climb to the top of Bom Jesus are one of the most glorious stairways in Portugal. After visiting these landmarks of faith, we’ll head back to Porto.

Independent dinner.

HOTEL INFANTE SAGRES (B,L)

Wednesday, April 1: Porto – Coimbra – Nazaré – Lisbon
After breakfast, we’ll leave Porto for Coimbra, the first capital of the country and a university city, one of the oldest in Europe. Located on a picturesque hill on the Mondego River, its criss-crossing streets are filled with students. After our group lunch at a local restaurant, we’ll continue to the charming fishing village of Nazaré, with its beautiful light, fine white sand, and hospitable residents. The Nazaré women used to wear skirts
with seven colorful petticoats as they waited on the beach for their husbands to return from the day's fishing. Today the town draws divers to its waves and beautiful underwater landscapes. A lift can take you up the high cliffs surrounding the cove to the Sítio da Nazaré, which offers a memorable view. At the Suberco Velvedere in particular, you can lose yourself in the spectacular scenes of the sea. You get to know Nazaré by strolling through its narrow streets. Continue to Lisbon to overnight. Independent dinner.

Michael's second lecture: The Roman Occupation of Portugal

**HOTEL DA BAIXA or HOTEL HERITAGE (B,L)**

**Thursday, April 2: Lisbon**

Today, tour Lisbon, Portugal's capital. Visit the Belém quarter with its beautiful historical monuments from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It includes a stop at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Belém Tower, point of departure of some of Portugal's maritime explorations, which are memorialized by the Monument to the Discoveries. Then we'll visit the church of the St. Jerome Monastery, a masterpiece of the Manueline style. We'll also stroll the narrow streets of Alfama, a historic district, stopping for a Port wine aperitif at a handicraft shop. In addition to a visit at the Museo Nacional del Azulejo, we'll take in many of the major squares of Lisbon: the monumental Trade Square, Rossio Square in the heart of the city, symbolic Restauradores Square, and Pombal Square. We'll stop for lunch along the way. Enjoy some free time before dinner and a fado show, a vocal and musical concert unique to Portugal.

Michael's third lecture: Portugal's Monastic Middle Ages

**HOTEL DA BAIXA or HOTEL HERITAGE (B,L)**

**Friday, April 3: Lisbon – Arrábida – Setúbal – Évora**

Leave Lisbon after breakfast and stop in the old fishing harbor of Sesimbra, enjoying free time at its castle. Drive along Arrábida natural park, past Serra do Risco Mountain, the highest limestone escarpment in Europe. At Setúbal's Livramento Market, considered one of the best in the world, wander among the fresh fish, fruit, vegetables, bread, cheeses, and regional pastries. At lunch taste Portugal's famous cuttlefish and delicious red mullet fish. Arrive in Évora and explore part of the city this afternoon. Group dinner at the hotel.

**HOTEL M'AR DE AR AQUEDUTO (B,L,D)**

**Saturday, April 4: Évora – Lisbon**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Évora is the capital of Alentejo. We'll take a long walk through the ancient and medieval streets of the historical center, which include impressive Roman ruins. We'll visit St. Francis church, the Chapel of Bones, and the place where Vasco da Gama received the order to discover a sea route to India. Topped by an imposing cathedral, Évora lies over a gently sloping hill rising out of the huge Alentejo plain. Its narrow streets of Moorish origin contrast with squares that hold two millennia of history. Its Roman temple, dating back to the second century, is the crown jewel of Évora. Many of the elegant columns remain intact, rising up to finely-decorated Corinthian points. We'll drive back to Lisbon and, on arrival, visit the Museo Nacional de Arte Antigua. At the end of the day, we'll take a petiscos walking tour.

Michael's fourth lecture: Portugal's Age of Exploration

**HOTEL DA BAIXA or HOTEL HERITAGE (B,D)**

**Sunday, April 5: Sintra – Cascais – Lisbon**

We'll travel to beautiful Sintra, rising from the plain, and take a guided tour of luxuriant Pena Park, the National Palace built over successive epochs, and the Paço da Vila de Sintra, one of the most important examples of regal architecture in Portugal. Sintra boasts elements of Gothic, Mudejar, Manueline, and Renaissance architecture and wonderful azulejos (colorful glazed tiles) from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in various halls, patios, and in the Royal Chapel. From Sintra, we'll continue to Cascais by the ocean at Guincho Beach, where we'll enjoy our group lunch. Return to Lisbon for our farewell dinner.

**HOTEL DA BAISZ or HOTEL HERITAGE (B,L,D)**

**Monday, April 6: Lisbon Departure**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport.

**HOTEL DA BAIXA or HOTEL HERITAGE (B)**