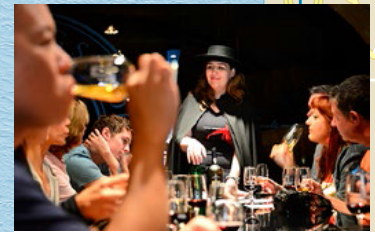




Wines of the Douro Valley

Wine lovers have their work cut out for them on a leisurely journey through the Douro Valley, Portugal's premier wine country; not only is it one of the world's oldest demarcated wine regions, it's also dazzling – steep terraced vineyards rise sharply from the banks of the Douro River and whitewashed *quintas* (estates) perch high up in the hills. Visitors are just as wowed by these dramatic vistas as they are by the area's viticulture, which has been turning out some of Portugal's premier wines for centuries.

Start Porto
Distance 325km
Duration One week



2 Across the river is **Vila Nova de Gaia**, where you can sample countless varieties at its many port-wine lodges. Graham's has a small museum.



4 A short detour south of the river, **Lamego** is known for its fine sparkling wine.

3 Riverside **Peso da Régua** is set in the heart of vineyard country. Take in the lovely scenery on a river cruise to Pinhão offered by Tomaz do Douro.

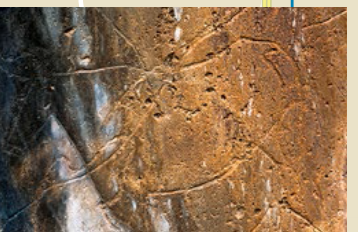
1 Any self-respecting wine tour will begin in Porto, gateway to the world's most famous port-wine region.

6 **Quinta Nova** and **Quinta do Crasto** are two of the best wineries in the Alto Douro. The Quinta do Crasto has been around since 1615.

Classic Photo
The Douro at Pinhão



5 **Pinhão**, a quaint riverside village, is a great base for a few nights. From here you can explore the wineries of the Alto Douro.



7 End your tour at **Vila Nova de Foz Côa** to view the thousands of examples of Palaeolithic art – mysterious rock engravings blanketing a valley.

