

EXCLUSIVE: PETER DUNDAS ON REINVENTING EMILIO PUCCI

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STALKER SHOCKER:
COULD RIHANNA'S
LIFE BE IN DANGER?



KIM AND KANYE:
CLUES FOR
BABY NO. 2?

J-LAW'S GAME PLAN REVEALED

STELLA JEAN
THE NAME YOU
NEED TO KNOW

NEW
SEASON
DRESS
LOVE

Complimentary Copy
NOT FOR RESALE



MAJOR BLAZERS

POP YOUR COLLARS

HIGH ST HOTTIES

FEATHERED FRIENDS

PORTUGAL

Say "Portugal" and one tends to think of the long, sandy beaches of the Algarve. But hang on, you're missing many of the country's best bits.

Here are some insider tips...

but not as you know it

PORTO

WHERE: Perched over the river Duoro, Porto is a charming mixture of grand stone townhouses and baroque churches. The river dominates the city – one of the bridges was built by Gustave Eiffel, of Eiffel Tower fame. A one hour Six Bridges Cruise from the Gaia Quay is a fab way to see the city (douroazul.com) and costs around Dhs46.

STAY: At The Yeatman, the classiest hotel in town, founded by an Anglo-Portuguese port family and with the best views of the city.

THE VIBE: The town's fortunes were founded on port in the 18th century, and this underrated fortified drink is still very much in evidence. A tour around one of the ancient port cellars is a must. End it in a very civilised fashion by sampling the beverages at Taylor's (taylor.pt), a stone's throw from the hotel. Explore the riverside Ribeira areas bars and restaurants, then, using the Clérigos bell tower as your guide, head to Rua José Falcão,

where some of the town's most fashionable bars and clubs can be found.

EAT: Get rid of your post-party lull with a Porto speciality, the Francesinha: a toasted sandwich filled to the brim with steak, then covered in melted cheese and smothered in tomato sauce, with chips on the side. Not for the fainthearted. For more refined tastes, the best food in town can be found at The Yeatman Michelin-starred restaurant.

RATING: Secret city smugness = high. This place should be better known.

THE LOWDOWN: Two nights will cost you Dhs2,725 for a superior room/double occupancy, breakfast and access to the pools, gym and wellbeing area, and Caudalie Vinotherapie Spa. Flights throughout December with Lufthansa from Dubai International Airport to Porto – with one connecting stop in Frankfurt – start from Dhs4,321 (ebookers.com).



Above: the beautiful coast of Porto is illuminated come sundown

Downtown Porto is full of hidden gems waiting to be discovered



THOSE IN THE KNOW ARE hightailing it to Portugal for their next trip. Not just because the prices are eye-wateringly low – this is the cheapest place in the Eurozone in Western Europe, people – but because there's a real buzz about the place, with the economy pulling itself out of the doldrums, and more going on than ever before. Porto, the country's beautiful second city, is a great starting point to discover the much less well-known northern region. Plus, the compact nature of the country means that the beaches of the Algarve are just a four-hour drive away...



LISBON

WHERE: The Portuguese capital that gives Madrid a run for its money as the late-night party capital of Europe.

STAY AT: The chic Beautique Hotels Figueira, in the downtown heart of Lisbon known as Baixa. Lisbon's Great Earthquake of 1755 means there are no narrow streets here, just broad avenues and large squares.

THE VIBE: Partaaaay! Vibrant, historic with just a hint of faded grandeur, Lisbon is one of the great European capitals. The seven hills the city's built on mean you'll get quite a workout if you explore it on foot, but there are always the public lifts and funicular railway to help you. Head up to the Bairro Alto district if you're in the mood to go out. It has to be late – the bars won't be packed until well after midnight, and the clubs get going around 4am!

EAT: For a dining experience like no other,

COIMBRA

WHERE: An hour south of Porto and one hour north of Lisbon, Coimbra, the country's medieval capital, is a buzzing ancient university town and a hidden gem.

STAY: In the Hotel Quinta das Lágrimas on the outskirts of the city. Try to get a room in the old house – it was here in 1355 that Dona Inês de Castro, a noblewoman and friend of the Prince Regent Dom Pedro, was murdered by an assassin hired by the Prince's father, who disapproved of their bond, bringing the country to the brink of civil war. The fountain where she was killed still stands and was named Fonte das Lágrimas – fountain of tears.

THE VIBE: Students, clad in their traditional black robes, are the town's lifeblood and make it a lively place, especially during term time, when the narrow streets echo to Fado, a melancholic style of Portuguese music that originated in Coimbra. A visit to the uni is a must – its library, the Biblioteca Joanina, is one of the world's grandest repositories of books, which are protected from insect damage by a colony of bats that live behind the bookshelves! The most interesting shops are around the Rua do Quebra Costas. Careful on this steep road, though – its name translates as



“the street that will break your back”.

EAT: At the Loggia Restaurant housed in Coimbra's fascinating museum, with some of the best views in town of the dome of Sé Velha, the town's old cathedral, and the Mondego river.

RATING: Geek chic = off the scale – the students in their smart black robes beat the “just woke up” look we're all used to any day.

THE LOWDOWN: Hotel Quinta das Lágrimas offers double rooms including breakfast starting from Dhs465 per night (quintadaslagrimas.pt).



make sure you go to the Casa do Alentejo in Baixa (casadoalentejo.pt). You enter by going through an unassuming doorway, to find yourself in a 17th-century Moorish-style palace. Elsewhere, the place would be renovated to within an inch of its life and mega expensive. Here in Portugal, it hasn't

been touched for years, and the restaurant, serving the hearty food of the Alentejo region, offers great value – don't expect to pay more than Dhs93 for a three-course meal. Afterwards, go and have a traditional Portuguese beverage called a ginja – a sour cherry drink with a whole cherry at the bottom of the glass – the perfect digestivo. There's a shop just metres from the restaurant called Café A Ginjinha that sells it at all hours (Largo de São Domingos 8).

RATING: Odds your calves will get a workout by simply walking up and down the hills = high. Chances you'll go out too late and everyone will have gone to bed = low. Just don't say we didn't warn you.

THE LOWDOWN: The Figueira Hotel offers double rooms with breakfast from Dhs500 per night (thebeautiquehotels.com). For further information on Lisbon, go to visitlisboa.com. ▶

WEEK IN WEEK OUT

CASCAIS

WHERE: Just a 40-minute train ride from Lisbon, you can rub shoulders with well-heeled Lisbonites in this classy option for beach action.

STAY AT: It's an easy day trip from Lisbon, but should you stay longer, the Albatroz Seafront Hotel is right on the beach with its own divine swimming pool.

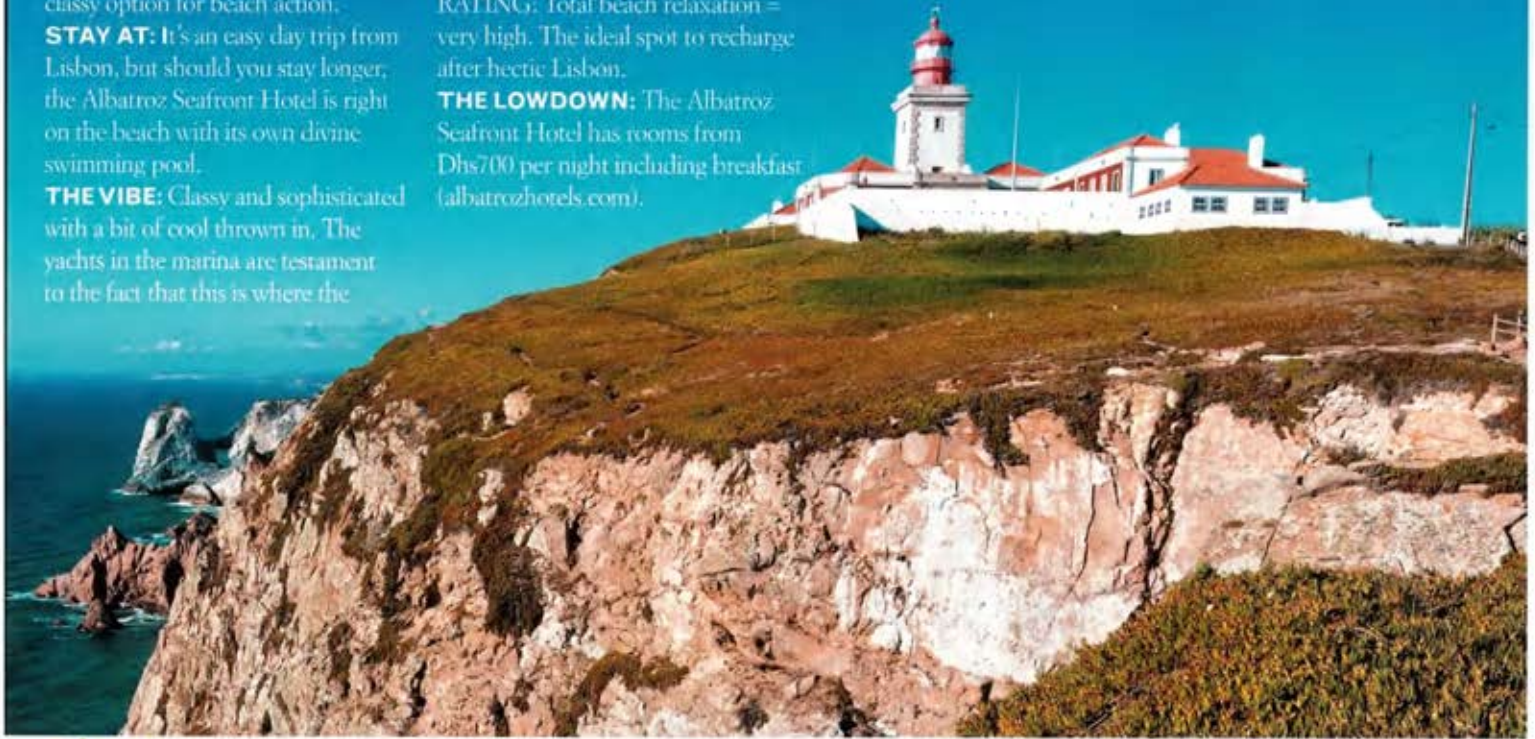
THE VIBE: Classy and sophisticated with a bit of cool thrown in. The yachts in the marina are testament to the fact that this is where the

Portuguese glitterati come to play, and after dark the town comes alive with sophisticated nightlife with a beach-house twist.

EAT: Grilled sardines or bacalhau (salted cod) at Dom Pedro I (Beco Dos Invalidos 32 2750 Cascais).

RATING: Total beach relaxation = very high. The ideal spot to recharge after hectic Lisbon.

THE LOWDOWN: The Albatroz Seafront Hotel has rooms from Dhs700 per night including breakfast (albatrozhotels.com).



EVORA

WHERE: Between Lisbon and the Algarve, Evora, in the heart of Alentejo, the equivalent of Italy's Tuscany, boasts stunning landscapes and great food – but at half the cost!

STAY AT: The chic, brand-new Vitória Stone Hotel, with its rooftop pool, great restaurant and cool styling.

THE VIBE: Historic and ultra-cute with ancient buildings, impressive city walls and Roman ruins. This is the perfect place to spend a night or two sampling the region's amazing food and drink.

EAT: At Taberna Tipica Quarta-Feria (Rua do Inverno 16), a cosy place with a set three-course meal, including beverages, coffee and an after-dinner treat, all for just Dhs110.

RATING: Foodie paradise = high – you are going to eat, eat, eat until you can eat no more here!

THE LOWDOWN: Vitória Stone Hotel has double rooms including breakfast from Dhs373 per night (vitoriastonehotel.com).



Main: Cascais is the chic seafront locale you never knew about

Seen here: the ancient beauty of Portugal in all its blue-skied glory

