

2008 FTLOP Tour Dates Announced

2008 FORTIFICATION TOUR: May 5th -11th

2008 PORT HARVEST TOUR: Sept. 29th - Oct. 5th



A SLICE OF THE BEAUTIFUL DOURO RIVER VALLEY © BY ROY HERSH – OCT. 2006

Mario Ferreira and Roy Hersh are planning two exhilarating excursions for the upcoming year. Unlike mega-tour operators that lack flexibility, their itineraries for the **Fortification Tour** (visiting Port & Madeira) and **Port Harvest Tour** are not finalized until after they've had a chance to personally contact each interested party. First they determine the potential clients' level of interest in the wine and regions they'll be enjoying. Once the dynamics of the group are clear, Mario and Roy personalize the tour, focusing on the specifics that their guests desire. This bespoke trip planning perspective along with an extensive network of Port & Madeira industry contacts make for consistently excellent guest experiences. They stay focused and don't offer tours all over the globe and their vast expertise in Port and Madeira is unrivaled in the tour business. The high quality of wines their guests will encounter and the trade personalities that guests get to meet along the way simply can not be matched by any other tour company, period. Ferreira and Hersh are at your service at all times and with no more than ten guests, you are assured of the utmost attention to your every need from the moment you arrive in Oporto to your departure. Most importantly, they design these excursions as if they were planning their own great wine and fine dining vacation. This is what Mario and Roy call their "specialized fortification process" and their guests really seem to love it. Mario and Roy look forward to providing each guest with the most extraordinary and unique wine trip they'll ever take!

2008 FORTIFICATION TOUR: May 5th -11th

Tour hosts Roy Hersh and Mario Ferreira are renowned for their expertise in Port & Madeira. Together they will ensure that this fun filled and all-inclusive trip provides unique, unsurpassed personalized experiences. We'll take part in "behind-the-scenes" tastings at some of the Douro's rising stars and legendary Port producers in the lodges of Vila Nova de Gaia and Quintas in the Douro region. Surrounded by the incredible, overwhelming natural beauty of the Douro River Valley you will savor the healthy regional cuisine and enjoy the rare opportunity to meet some of the most influential members of the Port trade. We then head to the temperate "Hawaii of the Atlantic" and discover the charms of the majestic island of Madeira. You'll experience the vast terrain of the vineyards and taste delicious, ancient Madeira while creating memories that will last a lifetime!



THE SPECTACULAR ISLAND OF MADEIRA © BY ROY HERSH – MAY 2007

What our clients have said about their excursions with us:

"Every day was an incredible learning experience and the things I learned about Port & Madeira will never be forgotten. I have already decided to start planning to go on the trip next year."

"I think you mention somewhere in your description that you provide an experience that could not be duplicated elsewhere and I left thinking exactly that. There was just no other way to try the wines we did in the settings we drank them, with the insights of the winemakers and/or owners right before us."

"This was my second trip with Roy and Mario. It was every bit as great as the first and I plan to go again. This is a must do trip for anyone that likes Port and Douro wines. A truly wonderful and educational experience. Bravo!"

"Unbelievable! Much better than I ever expected. I felt like Robert Parker or James Suckling (well, BETTER than them) at every stop!"

"Roy and Mario provided us with the opportunity to meet people, see places and taste wines that independent travelers and other wine tour companies simply do not have access to. If you are passionate about Port and Madeira, put your trust in these guys to give you an experience you will never forget."

"I learned more in one week than the last several years combined. Truly an educational experience that even a knowledgeable port drinker would love, yet perfect for a novice at the same time."

"Expectations were exceeded across the board and the little surprises made the trip very special."

"At each of the port houses we visited, the producers and shippers treated us as honored guests. It was a port-lover's dream"

"How do you rate a priceless experience? ... "It's like Chateau d'Yquem. You'll pay a lot, but given the quality, it's still a bargain."

"Your generosity and the quality of care from both of you were excellent. It was obvious that you were entirely at our service, and that you had done everything in your power to provide us with peak experiences. I can't imagine kinder and more professional tour guides."

"I think I was one of the most inexperienced people on the trip, and everyone made me feel very comfortable and I learned a great deal. I think a lot of people might shy away from these tours if they think they are not 'into' port enough. I definitely found myself questioning whether I was 'ready' for such an immersion (literally) but in the end I am very glad I did."



OUR GUEST PONDERES DAYS OF YORE © BY ROY HERSH – MAY 2007

Join in our exploration of the essence of Port wine and its related areas, which are steeped in century old traditions. Oporto (English for Porto) and sister city, Vila Nova de Gaia across the river, provide the historical perspective before we head up river to the enchanting Douro River Valley. Our journey then continues on to the sub-tropical island of Madeira which is likened to the climate and natural beauty of Hawaii. We will visit with several producers and provide a fantastic overview of the venerable wines that share the name of the island itself. We offer our discerning guests an unrivaled insider's view" of these historic treasures and an opportunity to gain an incredible wealth of knowledge and tasting experience. With a focus on wine, culture and gourmet culinary experiences, Port & Madeira expert Roy Hersh and Mario Ferreira will guide you on an unforgettable week long adventure to these exciting ports of call.

The foundation will be set in Oporto, the pre-Roman city formerly known as Portucale (Port of Cale) which lent its name to the country that later became Portugal. Oporto, which is the second largest city (pop. 1.5 million) after Lisbon, is the industrial backbone of the country. It is chock-full of World Heritage Sites and is the historical heart of the Port wine trade; both the Port & Douro Wine Institute (IVDP) and Factory House reside on this side of the river. Across the Douro is history-rich Vila Nova de Gaia, also known as the "entrepoto" (or entry way) to the Atlantic Ocean. In Gaia you'll visit ancient Lodges which are filled with enormous wooden casks and millions of bottles; meet some of the principal players in the industry, and of course, have the pleasure to taste an astounding number of incredible Ports. You'll enjoy a boat ride on the Douro, many sumptuous gourmet meals from catered events to dinners at award-winning restaurants and take pleasure in a couple of fun surprises along the way.

Next we'll head up the Rio Douro (river of gold) towards Pinhão. The Douro Valley is protected from the Atlantic influences by the Serra do Marão mountain range which allows temperatures to reach nearly 120 degrees during the peak of summer. When you arrive at the first Quinta and walk into the grape-filled vineyard overlooking the river, it is a moment you will always remember for its tranquility, steep incline and breathtaking view of terraces and the curvaceous Douro river which stretches as far

as the eye can see. It is during this part of your journey in which you will experience the sights and serenity of the Douro Valley, and have the opportunity to try some amazing Port wines. You will be treated like a VIP at every stop, whether by one of the “rising star” producers or one of the most legendary names in the trade. Your stay at our favorite Quinta’s brand-spanking-new luxury facility will make you feel right at home. The scrumptious regional dishes, cheeses and desserts paired with a variety of Douro reds and Port wine will make for a complete sensorial awakening.

We’ll then fly from Oporto to Funchal, the capital city’s international airport and you’ll have a half day to tour and shop on your own. We’ll meet you in time for dinner at a fabulous restaurant offering superb local seafood and meat courses. You will get to visit the most rustic and legendary single vineyard on the island and we’ll tour the rugged North side of the island which is remote and breathtaking. We’ll have some very special Madeiras to experience throughout the day & evenings too. Additionally, we will visit a number of excellent producers and meet with the principals to receive VIP treatment and superlative bottles from which to taste. By the time you leave the island your understanding of the different production methods, grape types and styles of Madeira will be vastly enhanced. You’ll taste a wide range of young and old Madeiras on this trip to Portugal and we promise you will not leave thirsty!



MADEIRA'S RUGGED NORTH COAST © by ROY HERSH 11-3-05

2007 FORTIFICATION TOUR: PORT & MADEIRA

Basics of the itinerary - May 5th - 11th 2008 (6 days, 7 nights)

Day 1 - (Monday 5/5/08) - Oporto/Vila Nova de Gaia

- After breakfast, meet at hotel where we can have an introductory meeting
- Visit Port Lodge #1 in Vila Nova de Gaia for a VIP tour & tasting followed by lunch
- Take a walk along the Cais de Gaia (waterfront)
- Visit Port Lodge #2 and have a tour & comprehensive sit down tasting
- Have a couple of hour break before meeting in lobby of our hotel to go for dinner
- Wine dinner at a fabulous local restaurant

Day 2 - (Tuesday 5/6/08) - The Douro

- Meet for breakfast
- Pack for trip to the Douro Valley
- Head up river to the Douro region to explore Port
- Lunch at one of our favorite restaurants in the Douro
- Tour the vineyards of a Single Quinta with the winemaker
- VIP tour and barrel tasting at the Quinta along with some harvest related activities and time for a photo shoot.
- Wine dinner with Douro wine & a very special Port tasting

Day 3 (Wednesday 5/7/08) - The Douro

- Meet for breakfast
- Head to a "first growth" Douro property and enjoy a vertical tasting going back in time
- VIP tour and barrel tasting at the Quinta along with "activities" in the vineyards followed by lunch
- Extraordinary wine dinner and tasting with a very special guest
- Spend the night in Oporto

Day 4 (Thursday 5/8/08) - Paradise in the Atlantic

- Meet "early" after breakfast and head to the airport
- Depart from Porto International Airport and arrive at Madeira's Funchal's International Airport
- Enjoy your half day of leisurely exploration in Funchal "on your own" (golf/pool/shop/tour/fish, etc.)
- Meet back at the hotel lobby at 6:30 p.m. for a very memorable dining experience

Day 5 – (Friday 5/9/08) - The "other" side of Madeira

- Meet "early" after breakfast and enjoy a breathtaking ride around the island and Câmara de Lobos
- Visit a legendary vineyard, a special ½ day experience including intriguing Madeiras and lunch

- VIP visit/tasting at a noted Adega
- Revel in a sunset "experience" in the vineyards and taste some of Madeira's culinary artistry

Day 6 (Saturday 5/10/08) - Madeira's majesty

- Meet after breakfast at 9:00 a.m
- Tour the North side of the island
- Visit Adega for VIP tour and lunch and an outstanding variety of Madeiras
- Return to hotel in Funchal and enjoy some relaxation time
- "Mystery dinner" experience

Day 7 (Sunday 5/11/08)

- After breakfast enjoy your morning relaxing poolside or around Funchal
- Departure from hotel to Madeira's Funchal International Airport to points abroad ... homeward bound



OUR AFTERNOON LINEUP OF MADEIRA © BY ROY HERSH – MAY 2007

2008 HARVEST TOUR: Sept. 29th - Oct. 5th

Come experience Portugal like you've never seen it before!



OUR OFFENSIVE LINE PRACTICING GRAPE DRILLS © BY MARIO FERREIRA – OCT. 3 2007

We'll be visiting some first class Port Lodge operations, specialty shops and restaurants in Vila Nova de Gaia and Oporto. Have you ever treaded on millions of grapes with your bare feet? Not yet!?!

In the Douro we'll have extraordinary experiences at each stop along the journey, while providing your palate with incredible sensations from extraordinary Douro Wines to rarified Ports, not to mention some of the most delicious and authentic regional cuisine you can imagine. Nobody provides a greater insight into everything Port and we can assure that you will have more fun than you can imagine. Don't forget to bring your shorts!

Here are just some of the members of the Port trade that you will enjoy during the 2007 Harvest Tour:

- **Quinta do Crasto**
- **The Fladgate Partnership**
- **Niepoort**
- **Symington Family Estates**
- **Quinta do Noval**
- **MORE ---** it is still early so this represents less than 50% of our visits



HAVING FUN BETWEEN COURSES © BY MARIO FERREIRA – OCT. 4 2007

What's Included?

This is an all-inclusive* tour from the airport upon arrival to the airport upon departure. Your trip includes:

- Small groups – our exclusive trips range from eight to ten guests, with 2 experienced guides.
- Airport Transfers – arranged for all singles/couples on an individualized basis
- Baggage handling – exceptional service from arrival to departure
- Meals – 3 meals per day which include wine & Port of our choice, flowing freely throughout dinner. There will be one lunch (Thursday) and one dinner (Sun.) the night before we get started, which are not included and where you'll be free to explore on your own.
- Options: these are offered for guests that would like to discover other cultural experiences such as golf, museums, shopping etc.
- We reserve the right to include a couple of VERY pleasant surprises which are not listed on the itinerary.
- Winery visits and all wine tastings
- Professionally chauffeured and comfortable transportation
- All taxes and tips throughout your stay

More!

***NOTE: You only pay for gifts, shopping, bottles of Port, Douro wines or Madeira that you choose to bring back home and “non-vinous” alcoholic beverages which are not included with meals. Airfare is not included to and from Portugal. We can provide you with our preferred travel consultant who is familiar with our guest’s needs and specializes in Portuguese air travel and destinations. We urge you to purchase your own travel insurance.**

Booking Conditions

1. We do not get involved in booking air travel for our guests. We can provide a great travel consultant that is familiar with the airlines and needs of our customers, to assist in the booking of flights.
2. We will meet in the hotel lobby on Monday morning at 9 a.m. and the trip officially begins at this point.
3. For early birds: book by February 1st 2008 and receive a \$150 discount per single and \$300 discount per couple.
4. We do not charge our guests a “single supplement” as we price our trips on a per room basis.
5. To maintain a small group size no more than 10 guests will accompany us. Bring 9 guests and your trip is free!
6. NOTE: We will not travel with less than eight guests and reserve the right to cancel the trip for this reason.
7. Roy Hersh & Mario Ferreira (tri-lingual) will personally accompany guests throughout the entire trip. We have included some free time for guests to explore and dine on their own. We can assist you with suggestions of cultural activities, shopping destinations and dining recommendations.
8. Please advise us at the time of registration, if you or your travel companion has any dietary restrictions, allergies or medical/physical restrictions.
9. We reserve the right to make minor modifications to the planned itinerary, based on availabilities of the wine producers, especially around the harvest time. But you can be assured we have your very best interests at heart in making these trips extraordinary! We do not finalize the itinerary until 45 days prior to the trip ... but they won't vary much. We always listen to potential client's requests and ascertain their level of interest and experience.
10. Payment methods to be discussed by phone, during our pre-trip consultation, where Roy can personally answer all of your questions.
11. For reservations or to request further details including trip pricing, please email: roy@fortheloveofport.com (Please type in: **May 2008 Fortification Tour** into the subject line)
12. Guest cancellation of the Fortification Tour from March 15th-April 7th will result in a 30% cancellation fee. Any cancellations from April 8th-April 22nd will result in a 60% cancellation fee. Thereafter, 100% forfeiture will take place as it is impossible to find a replacement for the spot you've vacated.

Visit www.fortheloveofport.com and join our interactive community of Port lovers by clicking on the FORUM

Links to articles on Madeira by Roy Hersh:

The Great DC Madeira Tasting http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=1
The Great New York Madeira Tasting http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=67
The Great Seattle Madeira Tasting http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=82&Itemid=67
Three Centuries of Port & Madeira http://www.fortheloveofport.com/articles/a_three_centuries.htm
Madeira for the Holidays http://www.fortheloveofport.com/articles/a_madeira_for_the_holidays_by_roy.htm,
Madeira's Sweet Nectars: Malvazia and Moscatel http://www.fortheloveofport.com/articles/a_madeira.htm
Long Lost Madeira Tasting in Miami http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=67
Discovering the Island of Madeira http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=67

Links to a 3 part series on one of our Tours:

Part 1 http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=51&Itemid=67
Part 2 http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=70&Itemid=67
Part 3 http://www.fortheloveofport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=70&Itemid=67

Our guests document their experiences of the past two tours:

<http://www.fortheloveofport.com/ftloforum/viewtopic.php?t=1174>
<http://dat.erobertparker.com/bboard/showthread.php?t=107430&highlight=Port+tour>