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Our second day was spent discovering all things Porto.

We began a walking tour that started in the Sao Bento train station; a beautiful station depicting the pillars of Porto - industry, agriculture and textile. Beginning here is a great way to begin your immersion into this city, as all of these elements are evident throughout the city.

Markets are my favorite places in European cities because you can catch the essence of the culture there, so we went to the Bolhão Market to see the famous sardines and blood sausages so commonly eaten here, amongst seeing the fresh flowers and other items sold.

Portugal produces incredible olive oil, so we were lucky enough to do a tasting, and found their oil to be fruitier and more fragrant than most.

We followed up with a traditional Tasca lunch - beer and sandwiches followed by a tour of the Crystal Palace for a 360° view of the city.

The day ended at [The Yeatman](#) with a site and dinner in Gaia, overlooking the stunning views of Porto. This family-owned 5\* hotel with Relais and Chateaux certainly holds its own with its 2-star Michelin restaurant.

It was an excellent day and an even better overview of Porto. The city's tourism has increased dramatically in the past five years, and it's not hard to see why; the people here are staunchly focused on maintaining the lifestyle and culture of the city, as it is safe, easy, walkable and just downright lovely.

Next stop, the Douro Valley!

We spent the last two days in the breathtaking and incredible Douro Valley, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. All I can say is WOW, as the region is filled with beauty and authenticity, as the landscape has truly not changed much over the last 50 years.

We were hosted in the private Quinta (a country villa) of one of the owners of The Little Orange, Antonio Homem de Melo and his lovely wife, Maria. They, as well as the house staff, welcomed us with open arms as we arrived.

With our time in the Douro Valley, we saw [Quinta Nova](#), [The Vintage House Hotel](#) (a sister property to The Yeatman in Gaia) and [The Six Senses Douro Valley](#), as well as sharing a beautiful experience at each; from literally melting the wine cork off of a bottle of port to a fabulous sustainability experience in creating "pots" for our plants that we gifted to Antonio and Maria. The experiences are plentiful here in the Douro Valley...as well as the excellent wine-tasting and production of this region.

The Douro Valley is best seen from the Douro River, and we were fortunate enough to have a private boat experience down the Douro River...on a nearly perfect weather day!

The pinnacle of our two days, however, were our home-cooked nightly "fam"-ily dinners with Antonio and Maria prepared by the house staff...complete with Antonio's 90-year-old family port to end each evening. Our hosts made their home feel like ours, and really, is there anything more special than that?

Leaving the Douro Valley was not easy, but we were excited to make it to our third and final destination...Lisbon!

It is about a 3.5-4 hour drive from the Douro Valley, so we decided to take a stop approximately 2.5 hours at Alcobaça to see the Alcobaça Monastery; a magnificent 12th century monastery that took nearly 600 years to build! We were also hosted by the lovely hotel within the monastery, [Montebello Hotel](#), which is made up of the monks rooms.

It was then on to Lisbon where we had the warmest welcome from [The Vintage Lisbon](#). A quick refresh and then off for one of the most unique experiences we have ever had.

The Loreto Aquaducts, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, took us to Underground Lisbon. Being able to walk through these tunnels while hearing the history of the city was magic; but the real magic happened at the end, with a private Fado show arranged by The Little Orange. Literally tears and goosebumps as the concert happened.

We had a bit of a surprise post-concert, as The Little Orange owners, João and Antonio hosted us for a cocktail in João's home. Such a special touch! These men have truly treated us like family.

We ended the night with a rooftop cocktail at our hotel and a beautiful dinner.

Our last day on our FAM was a busy one. We headed to Sintra to see the Castle there that were built between the 7th and 9th century...a true masterpiece of both protection and beauty. We explored the Peña Palace and walked through the decadent gardens - complete with species of flora and fauna from literally all over the world.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a typical lunch in Cascais, a seaside town just on the outskirts of Lisbon.

To explore Lisbon on our final night, we did a tuktuk tour, as Lisbon is a city of many hills...and we were all dressed up for our wonderful photo shoot with [Pix Around](#) as well as our farewell dinner.

The Little Orange offered a plethora of amazing experiences on this FAM, but our last dinner definitely was a huge highlight, as we dined with Portuguese nobility in their beautiful home; one that had been passed down to each generation since the 15th century.

We cannot thank The Little Orange Team for putting together a fantastic experience. I know we are all going home in love with Portugal!