

# VASSAR TRAVEL PROGRAM

Educational Excursions for Alumni*e*, Family, and Friends

# LISBON & MADEIRA

ADVENTURES IN PORTUGAL & ITS ISLAND PARADISE



THURSDAY, JANUARY 7. Departure from your chosen US gateway. OVERNIGHT: PLANE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8. Your arrival in Lisbon will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After free time to unpack and relax, your local guide will be available with suggestions and directions. Evening welcome dinner. (D) OVERNIGHT: Pousada de Lisboa

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9. Panoramic sightseeing this morning, with your local guide, introduces this fascinating city; from the grand neo-classical buildings of the Baixa district to the narrow cobbled alleys of the Moorish Alfama quarter, you'll experience the rich variety which is Lisbon today. We'll stop for visits to the Castelo de Sao Jorge, a hilltop fortification with

magnificent views over the city and the Tagus River, Belem Tower and the exquisite Monastery of Jeronimos. The afternoon is free for independent exploration. You may wish to visit the National Tile Museum in the cloisters of the splendid Madre de Deus Church to view Portugal's traditional "azulejos," take the Santa Justa Elevator, created in 1901 by Gustave Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame) to the elegant Chiado district or explore the Botanical Gardens. This evening is free. (B) OVERNIGHT: Pousada de Lisboa

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10. Today, we explore the coast north of the city: the beautiful hill town of Sintra and the palaces which dot the wooded hills. We'll visit both the National Palace and the Palace of Pena before spending time in the cosmopolitan seaside resort of Cascais, where lunch is included. We return to Lisbon, where the evening is free to sample a local restaurant. (B, L) OVERNIGHT: Pousada de Lisboa

MONDAY, JANUARY 11. This morning we transfer to Lisbon Airport for the short flight to Madeira. On arrival, we'll check in at our hotel and have time to settle in and have some lunch before an afternoon tour. We'll explore the city itself, beginning with a visit to the Museum of Sacred Art, a former bishop's palace with an extensive collection of Flemish masterpieces from the 15th and 16th centuries. We'll also tour the magnificent Cathedral Se, dating from the 1400s. Our day concludes with a Madeira tasting at San Francisco Adega du Vinho on Avenida Arriaga before we gather again for dinner. (B, D) OVERNIGHT: Reid's Palace,

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12. An all-day excursion around the island explores the astonishing range of landscapes, from subtropical to volcanic. We begin by heading west to Camara de Lobos, where Winston Churchill came to paint, stopping at the Henriques & Henriques Vinhos winery for a wine tour and tasting, then on to Cabo Girao, the highest sea cliff in Europe and second highest in the world, surrounded by beautifully terraced farmland. Continuing on, we'll visit Ribeira Brava's 16<sup>th</sup>-century church and its lively seafront market before proceeding through Serra de Agua to Boca de Encumeada for a view of both the north and south coasts of Madeira. We'll stop here for lunch and to admire the views before descending to Porto Moniz, a colorful fishing village on the very northwest tip of the island. We'll wind our way back along the coast road to the hotel, where the evening is free to sample a local restaurant. (B, L) OVERNIGHT: Reid's Palace

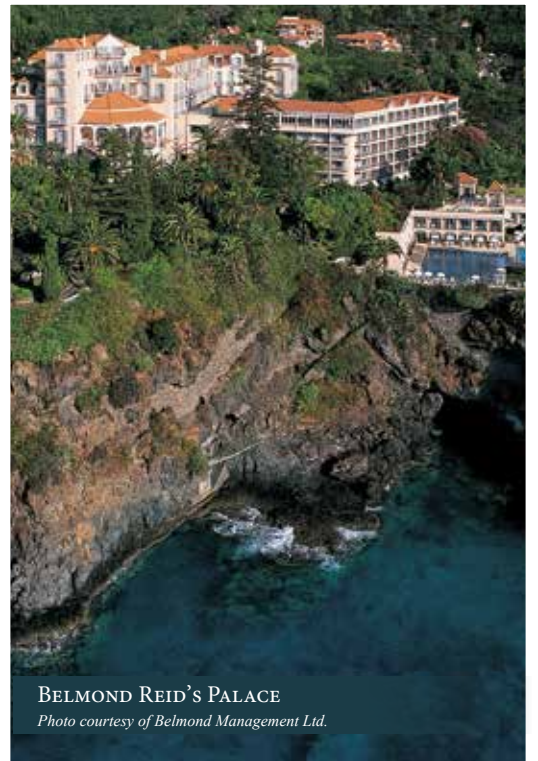
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13. This morning we head to the northern coast, stopping for a leisurely walk along one of the most attractive levadas (man-made canals) for which Madeira is famous—the Ribeiro Frio—and admire some of the stunning scenery. Continuing on to the historic village of Santana, we'll explore its lovely old streets. In the afternoon we'll return to Funchal in time for high tea at Reid's Hotel, our charming, old-world luxury hotel; the rest of the day and evening are free. (B, T) OVERNIGHT: Reid's Palace

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14. The island's beauty is showcased on a morning visit to Quinta do Palheiro. Garden enthusiasts will adore this superb estate, owned by the Blandy family, and the surrounding Blandy's Garden, one of the most beautiful parks on Madeira. On the hillside north of Funchal, we'll admire the Botanical Gardens, with their elaborate terracing and splendid variety of exotic flowers, vegetables, and herbs, providing a comprehensive introduction to the island's flora. The afternoon is free to discover Funchal at your leisure. A garden in itself, with beautifully planted squares, you may choose to simply roam the city, or set a destination like the Mercado dos Lavradores museum with its splendid collection of silver and antiques. Alternatively, the Museum of Natural History, housed in the old residence of the Count of Carvalhal, features marine-type species and geological samples. For a true taste of Madeira, don't miss the Mercado dos Lavradores, a colorful, high-energy, open-air market where you can buy any of the island's specialties from fresh fish and vegetables to exotic flowers and local crafts. You may also wish to visit Patricia & Gouveia for beautiful embroidery and a tour of its upstairs "factory," or duck into the Casa do Turista for a bit of shopping. This evening we'll have dinner at A Seta, a local favorite, for a taste of authentic espetada (huge swords of beef shishkabob) and a *fado* performance, the hauntingly sad folk music of Portugal (schedule permitting). (B, D) OVERNIGHT: Reid's Palace

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15. The spectacular orchid display at Quinta da Boa Vista, five miles above Funchal, has received numerous awards, most notably from the Royal Horticultural Society. From here we continue on to the glorious Monte Palace Gardens in the fashionable hill town above Funchal. Those who wish to, may return to town via the famous toboggans, operated by skillful professionals! Late this afternoon we return to Funchal Airport for the short flight back to Lisbon. In the evening we'll gather for our farewell dinner at our hotel near the airport, convenient for our departing flights the following morning. (B, D) OVERNIGHT: LISBON AIRPORT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16. Morning transfers to the airport are included for your return flights to the USA. (B) OVERNIGHT: HOME

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner



BELMONT REID'S PALACE  
Photo courtesy of Belmont Management Ltd.

