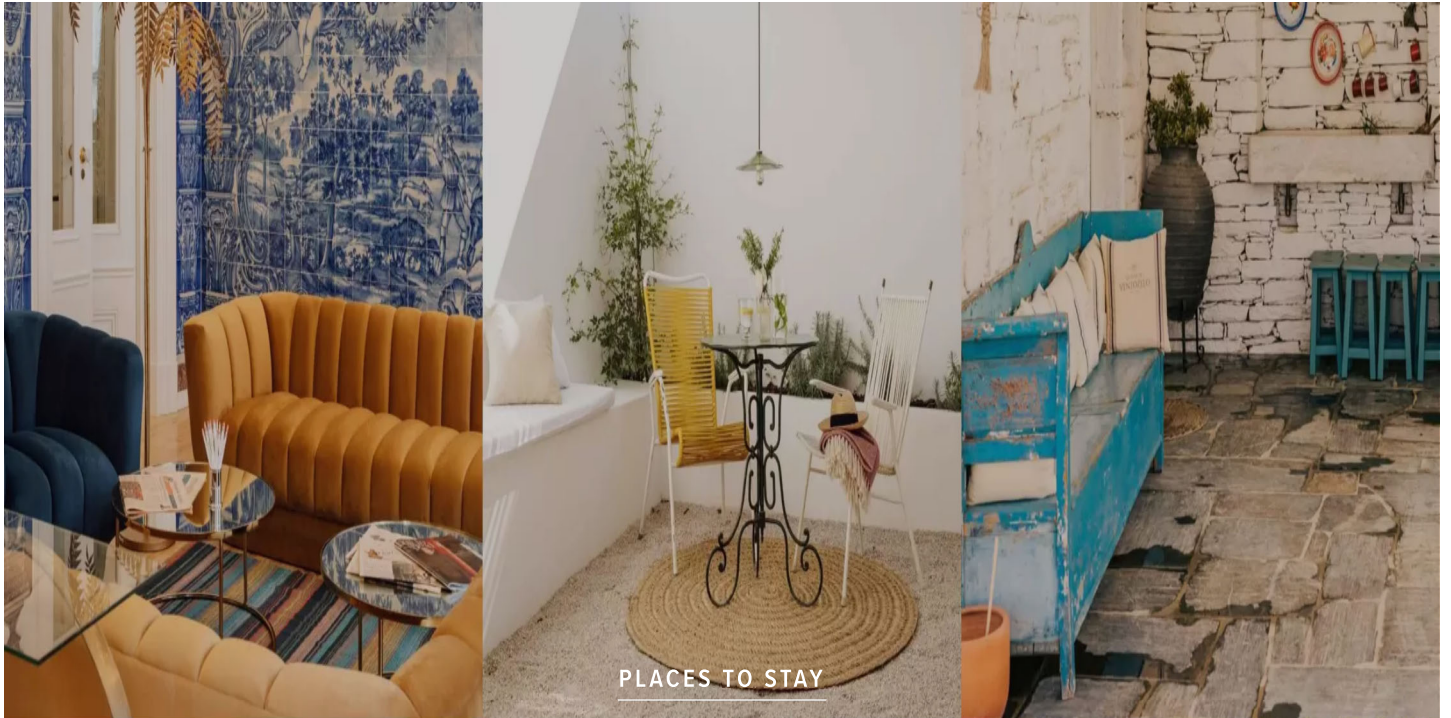


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PLACES TO STAY

6 PLACES IN PORTUGAL TO BOOK NOW



Our pick of the best new places to book, from rustic Douro Valley vineyards to cultural Lisbon hangouts

by MARY LUSSIANA

10 May 2021



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Quinta de Ventozelo

CREDIT: LUIS FERRAZ

QUINTA DE VENTZELO, DOURO VALLEY

More than 500 years old and with approximately 500 acres covered in vines, Quinta de Ventozelo is one of the oldest and largest estates in the [Douro Valley](#), set in one of the region's most beautiful locations. With a [landscape](#) to make your heart sing, it stretches from the edge of the majestic Douro River through hills and woods to reach an altitude of 1,640ft, making a richly diverse terroir for its wines. Now, among the oaks, rock roses, rosemary, heather and broom where red kites and booted eagles swoop, 29 bedrooms have been opened in several old [farm](#) buildings, most with a view of the slow-moving water beneath.

One two-bedroom house hangs over the river while a former barn looks onto an aromatic orange grove. There are suites in ancient wine-storage tanks, a string of rooms in a one-time workers' dormitory and Casa Grande, wonderful for groups of friends and [families](#), where six bedrooms share a library, kitchen and private swimming pool. Skilfully woven into the greater picture, the spaces are dominated by their setting, with simple decoration that draws on local schist stone and brings the outside in. There is plenty to do here, from floating in the pool, wine tastings and shopping the crafts in the tempting boutique (handwoven baskets, fragrant soaps) to browsing the museum that eloquently tells the Ventozelo story. For lunch, wooden boards are arranged with Portuguese sausages, smoked hams and cheese in the rustic restaurant, once a farm canteen, which spills onto a terrace hemmed by flowers with a sweeping panorama across the valley. Like a jigsaw, every compelling piece fits together here, drawing you into the Douro way of life. *Mary Lussiana*

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