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Where To Chill Out: 11 Perfect Hotel Terraces In Portugal



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Travel

I know the difference between expensive travel and the truly luxurious



The terrace at Ventozelo Hotel & Quinta LUIS FERRAZ / QUINTA VENTOZELO

All across Portugal, people have been counting down to today—the day that terraces (outdoor dining, basically) can reopen after the country’s long winter coronavirus lockdown.

There’s no shortage of *esplanadas* (terraces, rooftops and even sidewalk tables) in this lovely, temperate country, but some of the most beguiling are in hotels. From central Lisbon to the deepest Alentejo, from the vineyards of the Douro Valley to the beaches of the Algarve, these spaces are ready (or will be ready soon) to welcome guests back to a life lived outdoors. (In fact, some of these [hotels were open all along](#), for locals who

needed a change of scenery, but with room service everything, it was kind of a drag.)

Now that [tourism is restarting](#), everything from alfresco breakfast to afternoon tea to sunset cocktails in the open air is fair game. Here are 11 hotel terraces worth booking a trip for.



Ventozelo Hotel & Quinta LUIS FERRAZ / QUINTA VENTOZELO

Ventozelo Hotel & Quinta, Douro Valley

Opened at the beginning of 2020, this [29-room winery hotel](#) seems to have been made for outdoor living. Wine tastings are held in the garden, and meals are taken on the wide terrace, which has tremendous views over the steep, vineyard-covered hills. The fancified regional cuisine, overseen by esteemed chef Miguel Castro e Silva following a “zero kilometers” concept, lives up to the setting.



Santa Barbara Eco Beach Resort LUIS FERRAZ

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Santa Bárbara Eco Beach Resort, São Miguel, Azores

The terrace at this [sustainability-minded hotel](#) reflects the passion that the owners have long had for the black sand beaches along the picturesque northern coast of São Miguel. It's a dreamy spot to savor a coffee or a cocktail while drinking in the views of the Atlantic Ocean.



Torel Palace Lisbon LUIS FERRAZ / TOREL BOUTIQUES

Torel Palace, Lisbon

Despite its location in central Lisbon, this [discreet palace hotel](#) has always managed to stay just a bit below the radar. That's an advantage these days, when some of the other hotel terraces and rooftops around the city can get scene-y and busier than ideal. The swimming pool and spacious, partially covered terrace with its cushy chairs and drinks tables overlook the rooftops of Lisbon's historic center.



Quinta Nova da Nossa Senhora do Carmo FRANCISCO NOGUEIRA

Quinta Nova da Nossa Senhora do Carmo, Douro Valley

The classic terrace at this newly appointed [Relais & Châteaux wine hotel](#) is home to the brand new Terraçu Winery Restaurant, where chef André Carvalho celebrates the cuisine of the Douro Valley, in dishes that are meant to be paired with the hotel's own wines, overseen by enologist Jorge Alves. There are also plenty of other private nooks to sit, sip and savor the vineyards views.



Hortelão at São Lourenço do Barrocal SHE IS VISUAL

São Lourenço do Barrocal, Alentejo

The 200-year-old working farm turned luxury hotel [São Lourenço do Barrocal](#) has a strong sense of timelessness and tradition. Nothing is

overdone. The connection to nature is palpable. Especially so at the open-air restaurant Hortelão (“gardener”), where the fairy-light-strewn terrace is in the middle of the organic vegetable plots and chef José Júlio Vintém and his team use open fires to cook as much as possible. The local pork is acorn fed, and the fish comes from nearby Lake Alqueva.



You and the Sea DANIEL MATIAS

You and the Sea, Ericeira

[You and the Sea](#), a lovely, simple-chic small hotel near the waterfront in the surf town of Ericeira, offers comfort and a pared-down luxury. During the first lockdown, the owners developed an ambitious beach bar and multifunctional open-air space. Opened in August, the guests-only La Barraque includes a bar and terrace, a playground, a sports field and a skate ramp. They're all looked over by the massive, colorful seagull sculptures that sit atop the bar—the work of popular local artist Bordalo II, who makes large-scale works from garbage.



A terrace at Penha Longa Resort SILVIA MARTINEZ

Penha Longa Resort, Sintra

This [extensive resort](#), in the Sintra hills not too far from Lisbon, is going all in on terraces. They'll open three for guests: the one from the Arola restaurant (from Michelin-star chef Sergi Arola) for tapas facing the golf course, the Penha Longa Mercato for breakfasts overlooking the Serra de Sintra, and B Lounge for cocktails and snacks in the open air.



The Lumi Rooftop at the Lumières MARINA ABADJIEFF

The Lumières, Lisbon

This [luxury hotel](#) at the edge of Principe Real and Bairro Alto has lovely views over the historic city center and the Tagus river. The Lumi Rooftop terrace was fully renovated during the first lockdown with stone tables from Sintra and yellow bougainvillea. It opens today with new cocktails, weekend brunch and new menu items like gazpacho, lamb kofta skewers, oxtail croquettes and spicy chicken wings with smoky mayonnaise.



The Sky Bar at Tivoli Carvoeiro TIVOLI HOTELS

Tivoli Carvoeiro, Algarve

Less developed than some other resort towns in the Algarve, Carvoeiro is the place you see in those photos of stunning coastline: hidden beaches dwarfed beneath massive limestone cliffs. The best views in town are from [this historic hotel](#)'s glamorous Sky Bar, where there's often live music or a DJ (or at least there was before the pandemic). The hotel and bar have a tentative reopening date of April 13.



Sapiencia Boutique Hotel COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

Sapiencia Boutique Hotel, Coimbra

The rooftop terrace at this [design-forward small hotel](#) faces the striking-looking old university. It has 360-degree views over the city, the river, and the university's courtyard, tower and famous Joanine Library. By night, it's illuminated by the stars. They plan to reopen in May.



Casa da Calçada COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

Casa da Calçada, Amarante

This [Relais & Châteaux hotel](#) has an elegant small terrace overlooking the city. It's expected to reopen along with the hotel on April 29, mainly as an outdoor dining room for the all-day restaurant. The second restaurant, chef Tiago Bonito's Michelin-starred [Largo do Paço](#), will also use the terrace for monthly outdoor dinners underneath the stars.

Check out my [website](#).



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I've been an award-winning travel writer and editor for 19 years – including several as a senior editor at ForbesLife – and I've written about more than 600 luxury...

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