

Jun 23, 2021, 12:16pm EDT | 668 views

# Get Outside And Eat Well: 9 Perfect Hotel Picnics In Portugal



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Travel

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A picnic spread at São Lourenço do Barrocal ASH JAMES

One of the few good things to come out of our current situation is the rise of the big-deal picnic. And as Portugal rolls into its second pandemic summer, hotels across the country have outdone themselves in their efforts to get guests out of their restaurants and into the great outdoors. There's never been a better time—or place—to enjoy an alfresco lunch.

**São Lourenço do Barrocal, Monsaraz**

As horse and carriage can take guests to any spot on this [historic Alentejo farmstead-turned-luxury hotel](#)—say, in the shade of a cork tree, beneath a rocky outcrop or by the shore of the lake—for a picnic. The menu includes light food and regional delicacies, and for those who are so inclined, it comes with São Lourenço do Barrocal wine, produced from the grapes in the nearby vineyards.



A picnic from Sublime Comporta MIGUEL GOMES DA COSTA

## Sublime Comporta

Guests at [this posh hideaway](#) (the one that helped put Comporta on the international hotspot map) can order any meal from the lobby bar or room service menu, and for now extra cost guest relations team will pack it up in a basket with cutlery and napkins so to that they can enjoy their lunch anywhere on the 42-acre property. If they'd rather take their basket to the beach, that's fine too, and the hotel will throw in some beach towels and water bottles.







A family picnic at Herdade da Matinha MIGUEL GOMES DA COSTA

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## Herdade da Matinha, Costa Vicentina

Similarly, guests at [this sweet little retreat](#) in the coastal Alentejo can order anything from the lunch menu and the staff will pack it neatly in a basket with a picnic towel, cutlery, napkins and so on. Guests can take it anywhere on the property or to a nearby beach.

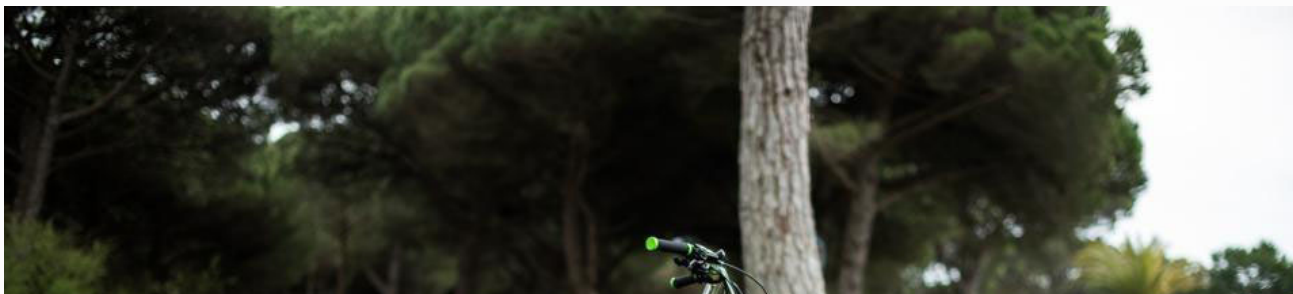
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A bike and a picnic from Sheraton Cascais COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

## Sheraton Cascais Resort

At [this resort](#) in Lisbon's chic suburb of Cascais, the picnics come with something even better: The baskets are mounted on cruiser bikes, that can be ridden to a pretty spot in the forests around the hotel or to nearby Guincho beach. The fee includes the use of a Europcar bicycle for eight hours or a full day, plus a lunch spread that includes hummus, sandwiches, salads, sweets, juice and water.



The picnic spread from Santa Bárbara COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

## Santa Bárbara, São Miguel



The “chef’s picnic” at [this Azores eco-luxury pioneer](#) combines a hike through one of the most stunningly beautiful islands in the Atlantic with a gourmet lunch to go. The boxes include treats that are more interesting than standard picnic fare, such as roast beef sandwiches, burritos with cured and marinated fish and chili aioli, vegetables from the hotel’s own organic farm, the famous Azores cheese, homemade cakes and delectable Pico wines.



A picnic at Ventozelo LUIS FERRAZ / QT. VENTOEZLO

## Ventozelo Hotel & Quinta, Douro Valley

This newish winery hotel has almost 1,000 gorgeous acres, there are endless options for an outdoor meal—maybe an olive tree or by the river, the steep vineyard terraces rising up in the distance. The lunchboxes come with the expected (but elevated) foods like breads, cheeses and sausages, but also with the



traditional meals that the vineyard's workers used to eat, like codfish açorda and roasted meats. Wine from Ventozelo can be included, of course.



A picnic under the palms at Reid's Palace COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

## Reid's Palace, a Belmond Hotel, Madeira

In the most tropical corner of Portugal, [this luxury hotel's](#) “Picnic Under the Palms” involves Michelin-starred chef Luís Pestana preparing an elegant alfresco spread. There's not even a need to leave the property, as the lush grounds include a garden with rustling palm trees and ocean views. The menu highlights some of the chef's specialities, such as charcuterie boards and muffins with rosemary and flour de sel.







A post-picnic lounge area set up at Herdade da Malhadinha Nova COURTESY OF THE HOTEL

## Herdade da Malhadinha Nova, Alentejo

A highlight of any stay at [this sustainably minded winery and hotel](#) in Beja is an outdoor lunch among the vineyards. The cold version is plenty lavish—cheese and cured meats from the Alentejo, colorful salads, roast beef, the most magnificent tomatoes. But guests can upgrade it to a barbecue, where resident chef Rodrigo Madeira (and sometimes Michelin-starred consulting chef Joachim Koerper, whose pastry chef wife, Cíntia, makes desserts that are as pretty as they are tasty) and his kitchen team will grill lamb, Iberian pork and beef from Malhadinha's production over an open fire. It's a good thing they also set up a shaded area for postprandial lounging.



## Casa de São Lourenço, Serra da Estrela

Located at in a natural park at more than 4,000 feet of altitude, [this mountain lodge](#) is surrounded by the best possible scenery for picnics. That's why the hotel offers two options: a backpack with some snacks and finger food, and a basket with a more complete offer. Either way, hikers (or anyone) get to enjoy regional flavors such as queijo da Serra (traditional cheese), ham and wine from the region, bread made at the hotel and other very Portuguese treats.

*Check out my [website](#).*



**Ann Abel**

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