



## STAY AT THE WINEMAKER

A absolute unique stay in Portugal with the Dutch winemaker Maarten van Luyt, in one of the most dazzling locations, in the heart of the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage area of the Douro Valley.

Experience in an ultimate way how people live and work in this fantastic port and wine region. Enjoy the stories and experiences of a true local. Playfully learn from the expert everything there is to know about the way port and wine is made in the Douro. Immerse yourself slowly in the wonderful and friendly atmosphere of the Douro





*Maarten van Luyt inspects his grapes in the vineyard of Quinta de Alaúde*

# THE WINEMAKER

Born in Lieshout, the Netherlands, the outdoors has always been in Maarten's blood. While his brothers were playing soccer, Maarten was taking cuttings and planting trees. He converted his innate love for nature into a new existence at the beginning of this millennium. He left his native home-country behind to become proficient in viticulture and winery.

In the French Bordeaux region, he gained his first winegrowing and wine production experiences at Chateau Giscours and Chateau Du Tertre, where he later returned regularly. In Italy he made wine for two seasons at Caiarossa in Riparbella (Tuscany). Here Maarten gained experience with the biological dynamic wine production.

Maarten followed the wine seasons and traveled for several years from the northern to the southern hemisphere depending on the harvest times.

He spent two harvest seasons in Chile producing the best wines of Calliterra (Mondavi) and Santa Carolina, and he worked at Indevin in Marlborough, New Zealand.

In Australia, he brushed up on his theoretical viticulture knowledge at the University of Adelaide. In the Austrian Burgenland, he further developed

his skills in making dessert wine with Martin Pasler. He also visited California's famous Napa Valley and Sonoma Valley wine regions.

Maarten finally settled in 2007 in the Douro in Portugal, where he worked for several seasons for the famous port house Churchills (Quinta da Gricha). Here he participated in making the table wines.

Maarten has now built his own Quinta de Alaúde (Portuguese translated: "Luyt farm") in the hills near the village of Ervedosa do Douro on one of the most beautiful places in the UNESCO World Heritage area, with a magnificent view over the Douro valley. Here he lives and works and under the "LUYT" label he produces his own wine from native grapes from his own vineyard and several vineyards that are friends. The red and white "LUYT" Douro wines perfectly combine the characters of the old and new world wines in one bottle.

## Stay at the Winemaker

Quinta de Alaúde offers a unique and welcoming stay, at the winery, in one of the most beautiful places in the UNESCO World Heritage area of the Douro. Maarten is welcoming you!



*Maarten van Luyt*



# STAY AT THE WINEMAKER

Staying with Maarten van Luyt in Quinta de Alaúde is the perfect way to really get to know the beautiful Douro area. It all starts with the location. The view from Quinta de Alaúde over the Douro valley is breathtaking.

Here you can enjoy the hospitality of a real Dutch winemaker, who has been living and working in the Douro for 15 years. He knows the area like the back of his hand and has an enormous network of friends and acquaintances who are often colleagues. This allows Maarten to ensure that you do not miss any of the interesting activities during your stay in the Douro. You will often be in the right place at the right time because of Maarten.

Each Quinta has its own opening hours, its own progress in the production process, and therefore its most interesting moments for a visit. Maarten knows exactly those kinds of situations and can therefore ensure the best possible experiences. Maarten knows the tricks to arrange a perfect tasting, and he can also guide you very well in the process of tasting itself. If one of the Quinta's in the area calls in the mobile bottling machines to bottle their wines, Maarten will know, and he will take you along at once. The bottling process is very busy, and many hands are used to fill, cork, label and package all bottles as quickly as possible. It is interesting to experience this process in person.

For the 'hard-core' enthusiasts, a short 'winemaker for one day' experience can even be organized. You will receive a number of raw wine juices, which you can blend into your own wine by means of tasting and trying. Of course, this is not without interesting discussions about taste. It is all very lively. When the wine is finally in the bottle, you will put the cork on it, design a label and finally of course: take that 'signature' wine with you.

Maarten is a fantastic winemaker, inspiring and very educational as he talks passionately about wine and port, about the vineyards, about the production process, the techniques and his worldwide experiences as a winemaker. He is incredibly friendly and full of stories and anecdotes. In a playful way you will learn everything there is to know about the way port and wine are made in the Douro and he slowly immerses you in the wonderful and friendly atmosphere of the Douro.

Quinta de Alaúde is located in the middle of the area where the most important port vineyards have been located for several centuries and in the middle of the cultural landscape of terraced vineyards on the steep slopes of the Alto Douro Wine Region, which has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With its gentle slopes, native grapes and ancient Quinta's, the Douro is definitely one of the most beautiful wine regions in the world. The Douro valley still radiates tranquility, here you will not find busy travelers crowds.

The Douro wine region is structurally different from all other wine regions in the world. The stock, sales and competition are in Porto. Two hundred kilometers upstream, here in the Douro, live the hard-working people who actually make the wine. The atmosphere here in the port world is one of camaraderie and cooperation. You will see these friendly ties in all of Maarten's daily interaction.

From Quinta de Alaúde there are countless activities to do. Sign up for a wine tasting at one of the region's wine estates. Take a boat trip on the Douro River, or visit the Douro Museum, the offer is endless. A Stay at the Winemaker makes for an unforgettable time in the Douro and after your first visit we guarantee you that you will come back many more times!



# COLHEITA

2 pax

**Colheita** offers a magnificent floor-to-ceiling view of the Douro Valley, a panorama that will keep inspiring you! You can perfectly enjoy sunrise and sunset directly from your bed.

**Colheita** has a private en-suite bathroom in modern Portuguese style, with shower and toilet. In addition, there is a minibar and air conditioning. All areas have free Wi-Fi.

**Roomsize** 24 sqm.

- Panoramic view over the Douro River
- Lits-jumeaux double bed or two singles
- Airconditioning
- Storage space
- Minibar

## Private bathroom

- Spacious shower
- Toilet
- Towels

## Smoking

Smoking is not allowed inside the Quinta.





# RESERVA

3-4 pax

**Reserva** offers a magnificent floor-to-ceiling view of the Douro Valley, a panorama that will keep inspiring you! You can perfectly enjoy sunrise and sunset directly from your bed.

Additionally, **Reserva** offers an extra room space where 1 or 2 extra beds can be added upon request.

**Reserva** has a private en-suite bathroom in modern Portuguese style, with shower and toilet. In addition, there is a minibar and air conditioning. All areas have free Wi-Fi.

**Roomsize** 32 m<sup>2</sup>

- Panoramic view over the Douro River
- Lits-jumeaux double bed or two singles
- Optionally 1 or 2 extra beds
- Airconditioning
- Storage space
- Minibar

## Bathroom

- Spacious shower
- Toilet
- Towels

## Smoking

Smoking is not allowed inside the Quinta.





*"Al-fresco excellent breakfast made of local products at the patio of Café da Mañha"*

# ACTIVITIES



## QUINTA VISIT

There are dozens of beautiful Quinta's in the vicinity of Quinta de Alaúde, which guide visitors around in the winery and cellars. Maarten knows all most interesting Quinta's and can explain the differences between the various Quinta's very well. This varies from the traditional Quinta's, usually with centuries-old granite port-legars to ultramodern Quinta's that work according to the latest state-of-the-art techniques. During such a visit, Maarten is always an inexhaustible source of additional information.



## WINE AND PORT TASTINGS

During a **Stay at the Winemaker**, you will of course taste the delicious LUYT wines. But it will not stop there. In most Quinta's, a visit ends with a tasting of the properties' port and wines. Maarten is an excellent facilitator in the process of tasting itself. If possible, he will also try to let you taste the grape juices, straight from the stainless-steel production vats in the winery or even the wine-in-the-making, straight from the oak barrels in the cellars.



## HARVEST TIME

A very special time for a **Stay at the Winemaker** is during the annual harvest time. At that period, the Douro is teeming with activities, and you can see the farm workers busy with the grape harvest in the colorful vineyards. If possible, Maarten will arrange that you can lend a hand yourself and sometimes even that you can trod grapes (press with your feet) in one of the old port-legars. Harvest time is an incredibly educational and fun time to step into the busy life of the Douro winemakers.

## INTERESTING SURROUNDINGS

On the slopes of the rolling hills of the Douro, small, dreamy villages, home to diligent farm workers, gleam in the sun. Beautiful old buildings, churches and squares are giving the whole area a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere. Villages such as São João da Pesqueira (including Museu do Vinho), Peso da Regua (including Museu do Douro) and Lamego are lovely. About an hour east of Quinta de Alaúde is the Archaeological Park of Foz Côa, featuring prehistoric rock carvings.



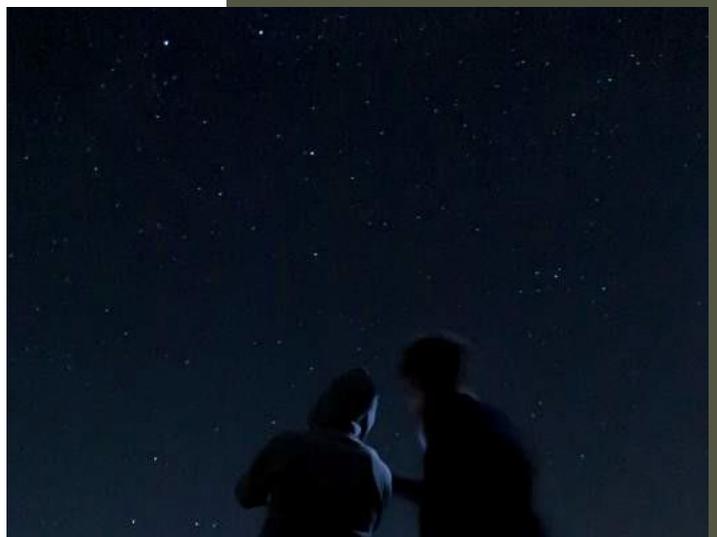
## GASTRONOMY

Maarten regularly organizes a barbecue for his guests at the beginning of the evening. He can also recommend the best restaurants in the area for lunch or dinner. That can range from a restaurant in the exclusive category to a simple authentic restaurant where the winemakers also come in for dinner. An unforgettable picnic lunch package or a temporary pop-up restaurant in the middle of the vineyards. Maarten knows all the possibilities and is happy to show you the way...



## CELESTIAL STAR GAZING

Due to the remote location of Quinta de Alaúde in a quiet area free from light pollution, clear evenings guarantee spectacular starry skies. Using a special stargazing app such as Star Chart or Skyview, this quickly leads to a fascinating exploration of the universe. Enjoying one of the beautiful starry skies at Quinta de Alaúde with a glass of wine or port in hand is an unforgettable experience for every guest.

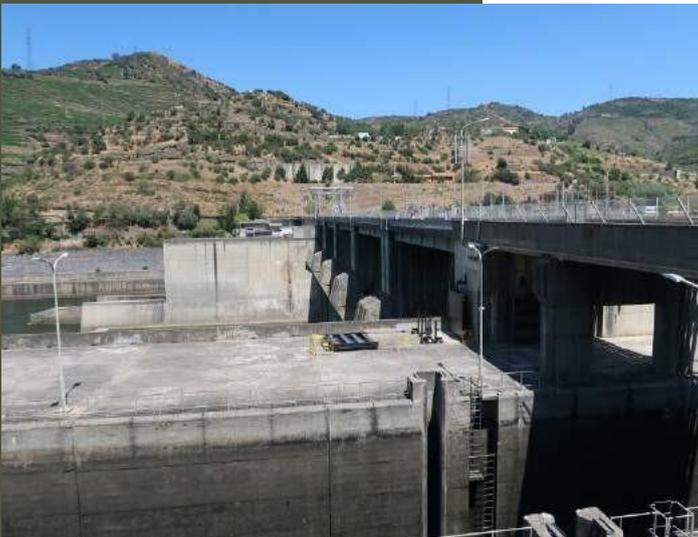


# ACTIVITIES



## SUNSET CRUISE

At the end of the afternoon, the ideal time has arrived for a wonderful sunset cruise on the Douro River. From the riverfront of Pinhão village, you can board an old rabelo. These are the typical wooden ships that were used in the old days to transport the port barrels from the wineries in the Douro valley to the cellars in Vila Nova da Gaia (Porto). It is a lovely way to relax and sail on the river. The endless vineyards on the riverbanks pass by slowly and in silence (some rabelos are electrically powered). As the sun slowly sets, you know that life is really good!



## DOURO DAMS AND LOCKS

De The Douro River itself has traditionally been quite a wild river. The rabelo boats that in ancient times transported all port in large barrels across the river to the wine cellars in Porto suffered along the way and were regularly shipwrecked in one of the many treacherous rapids. Today there are a number of large dams with locks in the Douro, to ensure a calm waterway. A short visit to one of these immense structures is always interesting.



## WATERSPORTS

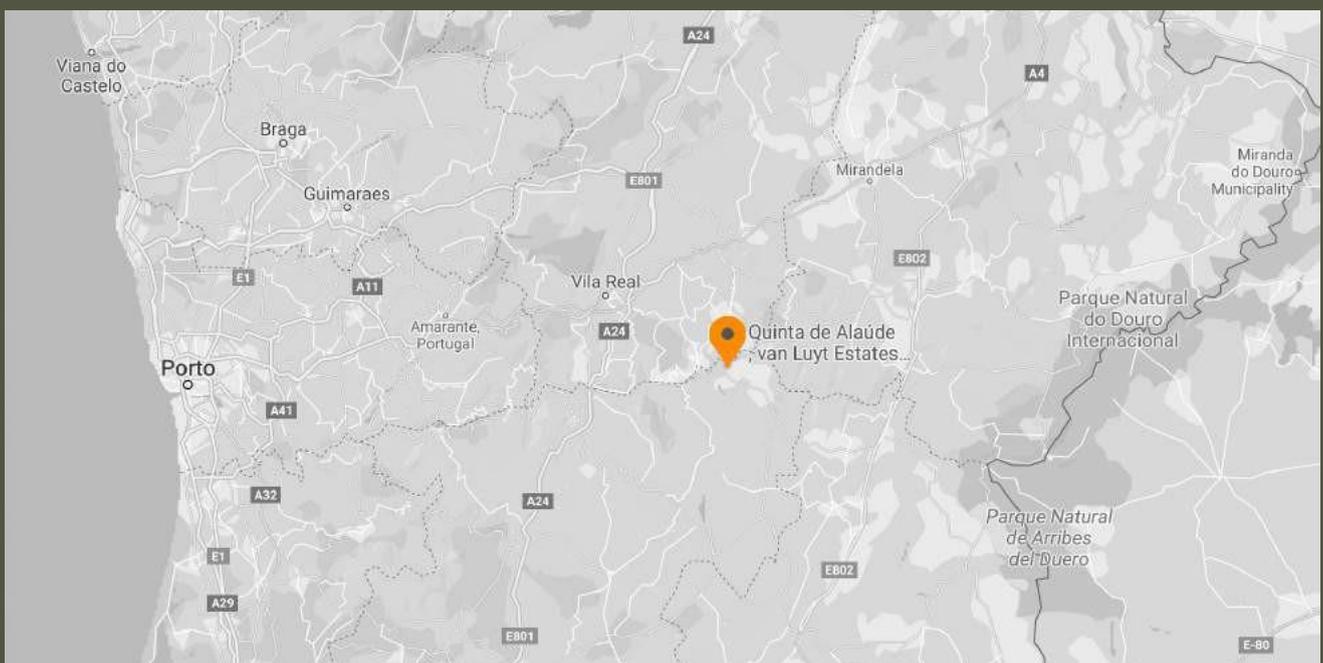
Sports-enthusiasts will find that there is a nice water sports option on the river. The Douro is particularly suitable for kayaking. There is even an organization that organizes multi-day kayak trips on the Douro. But also, just for a few hours kayaking is of course a wonderfully active and at the same time relaxing activity. Make sure you have good sunscreen protection because the sun can sometimes be treacherously strong in the summer in this area.



## LOCATION

From the city or the airport of Porto, the drive to Quinta de Alaúde in about 2 hours. A Stay at the Winemaker can therefore easily be planned as a short 4-6 day combination trip with visiting Porto.

It is also possible to include a visit to Porto and the Douro in a more extensive fly-drive through Portugal. For more complete travel options and suggestions check: [www.hemingstonetravel.com](http://www.hemingstonetravel.com).







## LUYT RESERVA 2019 BRANCO

LUYT Reserva 2019 Branco is made from Gouveio, Viosinho and Rabigato, typical native Portuguese white grape varieties, which give this wine its unique character. All grapes in the field were picked by hand and transported in 20 kg crates. Then pressed and fermented at a low temperature in stainless steel tanks. The characteristic properties of this wine originated during the fermentation period.

**Wine/food tip: fish, white meat/veal, pasta**



## LUYT COLHEITA 2017

LUYT Colheita 2017 red wine is made from a wide variety of native Portuguese red grape varieties. This field blend contains about 30 different grape varieties harvested at the same time. All grapes were hand-picked in one go, some overripe, some ripe, some not ripe, and crushed together and collected in a 'lager' (open tank). The characteristic features of this wine were further created during the 28-day fermentation period. With a max. temperature of 27 degrees Celsius. This wine is manually plumped without the use of pumps. After pressing, the wine is aged for 16 months in used French oak, before going back into stainless steel tanks. Press wine has been added during bottling.

**Wine/food tip: red meat, a spicy dish and strong cheeses**



## LUYT RESERVA 2017

LUYT Reserva 2017 is made from native Touriga Nacional grapes that have matured on terraces located on the south side of the Douro valley river at 300 meters altitude. Hand-picked, transported in 20kg boxes. Sorted and crushed collected in a 'bearing' (open tank). Manual plucking used during the fermentation process instead of pumping around. Fermentation period 21 days with a maximum temperature of 29 degrees Celsius. Then pressed and kept in 100% used French oak barrels. After the 2nd fermentation time, it matured for at least 16 months in these barrels. During bottling, the press wine is added to the wine.

**Wine/food tip: red & white meat and light cheeses**



## LUYT RED LABEL 2012

All grapes in the field are picked by hand and transported in 20 kg crates. Then pressed and fermented at a maximum of 29 degrees Celsius in open stainless-steel tanks of a maximum of 1200 liters. The characteristic properties of this wine are created during the fermentation process.

**Wine/food tip: game, red or white meat, light cheeses**





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