

MOMENTS

on the road

Spain & Portugal -
From Andalusia to the Atlantic Ocean
(13 Days)





ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

Welcome!

We love road journeys. They are by far our favourite way of traveling. And when we're in the mood for spoiling ourselves with fine food and delightful hotels besides the sheer pleasure of being on some of the world's best roads, we turn to Europe!

The itinerary we present here goes through the south of the Iberian Peninsula. Almost fifteen years ago Angie and I drove in Spain and Portugal for the first time; a few years later we returned on the occasion of celebrating our wedding anniversary there with friends. Both times we came as tourists with no thought of ever developing an On the Road itinerary in these lands.

Over the years, Spain and Portugal have been suggested repeatedly as possible destinations for us. Last year we resolved, at last, to design our first Iberian Peninsula itinerary and to focus on Andalusia in Spain, Alentejo and the Algarve in Portugal. What we have found during the last nine months has been overwhelming. Rarely have I driven on such beautiful roads with so few cars; the variety and freshness of the food we have enjoyed there still lingers enticingly on the palate; the culture and history we uncovered moved us, again and again; the people we met touched us; and the hotels we stayed in were a sheer delight.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to share with you what we've come to love ourselves so much. Please turn the page to see what we have in store - a journey where we hope every day will be filled with excited anticipation and unforgettable memories.

Yours truly,

Peter Schindler

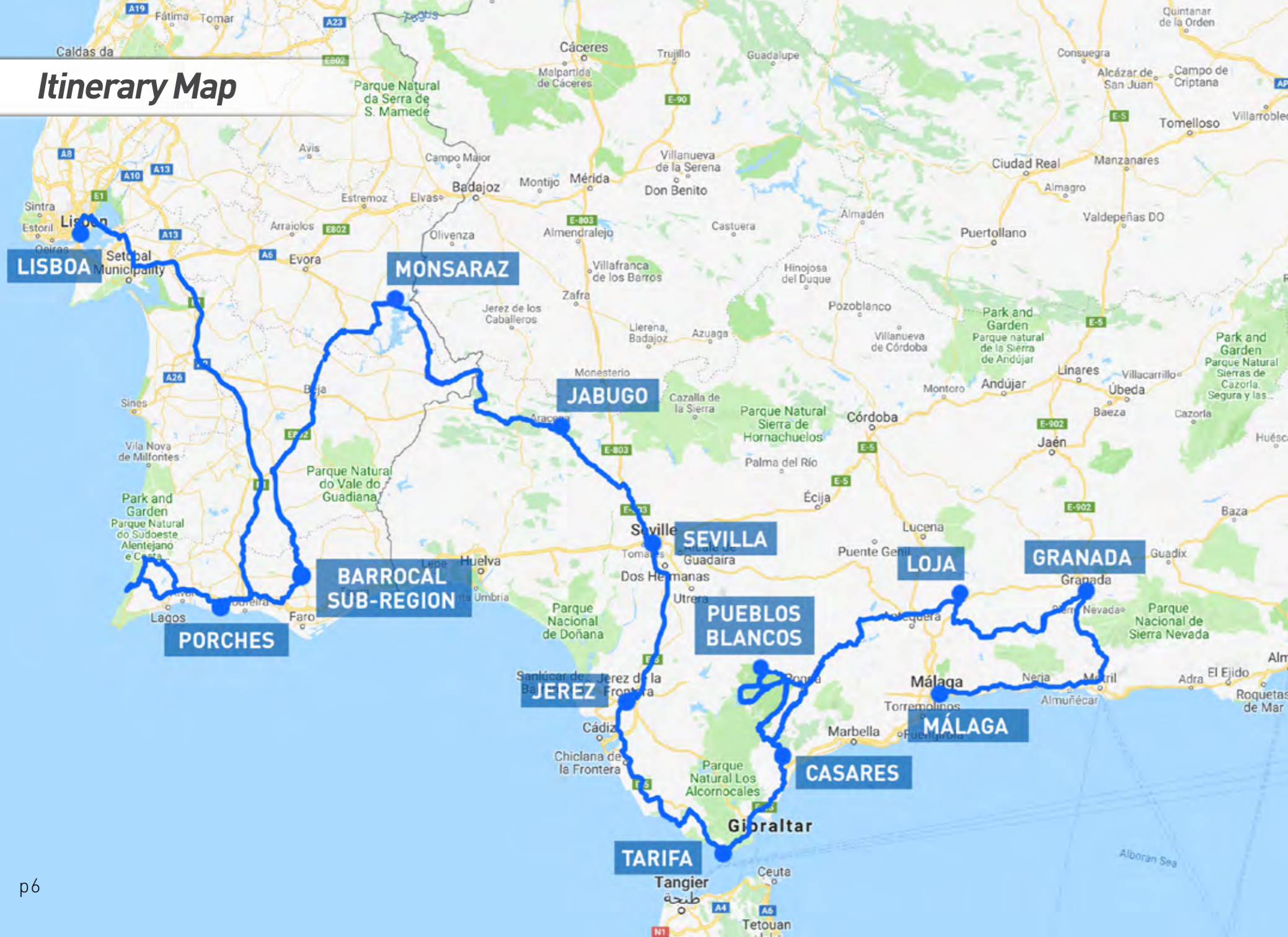


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Itinerary Map



Day-by-Day

Day1 🛍️🏠
Málaga (Spain) to Granada –
Start your journey with an easy drive to your hotel in Granada

Day2 🛍️🏠
Granada and Loja –
Visit the Alhambra and around Granada. Then head to your countryside hotel in the Sierra de Loja

Day3 🏠
Towards Casares –
Country roads and artisan farms - A day of Andalusian countryside and hospitality

Day4 🏠
Casares, and the Pueblos Blancos –
A day of relaxation - or explore the Sierra de Grazalema's whitewashed villages

Day5 🛍️🏠
Jerez –
Experience Jerez's rich history and culture

Day6 🛍️🏠
Jerez to Sevilla –
Discover the grace of Andalusia's horses before driving to Sevilla, the Andalusian capital

Day7 🛍️🏠
Sevilla –
Be charmed and seduced by the majestic and historic city of Sevilla

Day8 🏠
Jabugo to Alentejo (Portugal) –
Discover the secrets of the world's finest jamón in Jabugo, before driving on to Portugal's Alentejo region

Day9 🏠
In and Around Alentejo –
Explore the wide open spaces of Alentejo, and meet the region's little-known inhabitants

Day10 🏠
To the Algarve –
Discover a rugged landscape of wild mountains en route to the deep blue waters of Portugal's Atlantic coast

Day11 🏠
In and around the Algarve –
A day of relaxation - or explore the 'roads less travelled' in western Algarve

Day12 🛍️🏠
Lisboa –
Drive across the longest bridge in Europe, the Vasco da Gama bridge, to Lisboa

Day13 🛍️🏠
Farewell –
Fly home, or extend your stay in Lisboa

-  International Brand Shopping
-  Local/Handicraft Shopping

Why Andalusia, Alentejo and the Algarve?

Discover this unique part of Europe, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Mediterranean Sea...

The lands of southern Spain and Portugal have welcomed travellers and launched explorers since the days of Christopher Columbus. To drive through Andalusia, Alentejo and the Algarve is to share in this tradition, whether that mean enjoying warm local hospitality or revelling in the thrill of an open road and a distant horizon.

We have specially crafted this journey to bring surprises at every corner:

- Explore the **must-see cities** of Granada and Sevilla, each with its own distinctive and fascinating history, signs of which remain tantalisingly visible today, from Moorish palaces to Medieval cathedrals
- **Meander through quaint villages**, with whitewashed cottages and cobbled streets, and discover hilltop ruins, churches, castles and forts
- **Enjoy diverse landscapes** - from Portugal's wild Atlantic coast to the rugged beauty of the Sierra Nevada, and the plains of Alentejo
- **Water, water, everywhere**, be it in lakes, rivers, sea or ocean - and all of it crystal clear
- Discover the **bounty of this fertile land**. The sunshine and gentle Mediterranean climate has given rise to a cuisine full of healthy flavours that make the most of the region's beautiful fresh produce, and plenty of gourmet specialties, including olive oil, organic caviar, Jabugo Iberico ham and excellent wine.
- We have chosen beautiful hotels throughout, with some **absolutely world-class** properties in surprisingly remote locations
- Enjoy all this at a **slow, relaxing** pace, with two nights' stay in most destinations
- Each destination is connected by **beautiful back roads** that will show you Spain and Portugal away from the crowds. Driving offers the privileges of freedom, privacy and comfort.

Journey of discovery



“ First,
a light refreshing brunch
before driving to
GRANADA...”



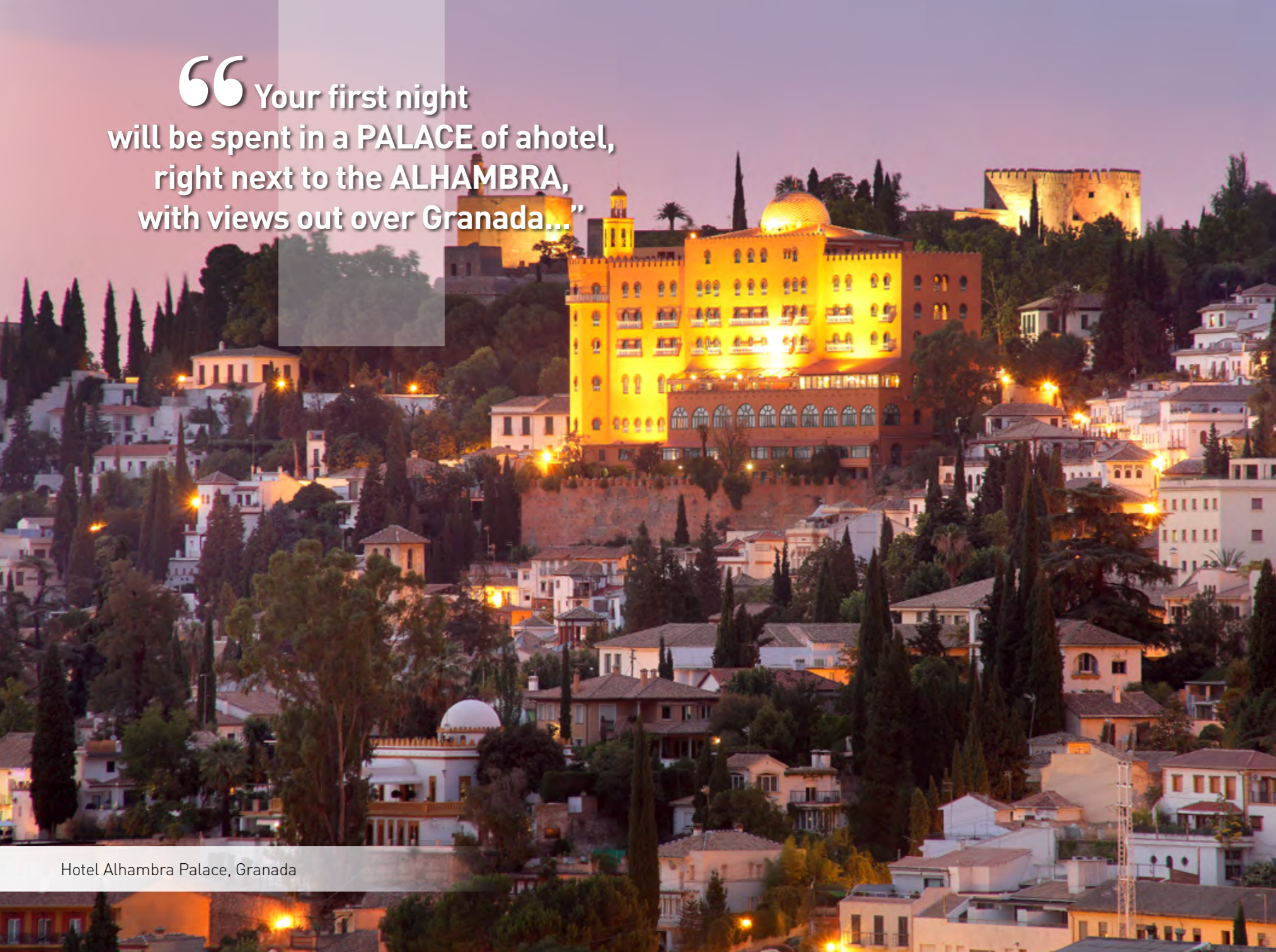
“ For the next day,
wherever you drive or go...
the **IMPRESSIVE** mountain
massiff of the **SIERRA NEVADA**
will be by your side...”



Sierra Nevada, Granada



“Your first night will be spent in a PALACE of a hotel, right next to the ALHAMBRA, with views out over Granada...”



Hotel Alhambra Palace, Granada





The Alhambra, Granada



“ Be filled with amazement at one of the **WORLD's** most spectacular **ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS...**”





“HOW is so much detail ever possible...?”

The Alhambra, Granada

“ Its **MAGNIFICENCE...**
enhanced by **WATER...**”





Jardines de la Alhambra, Granada



“...and GARDENS.”





“ Orange trees -
an EMBLEM OF ANDALUSIA -
can be found everywhere, filling the city
with their colour and fragrance...”

“A short STROLL
through Granada city
and lunch...”



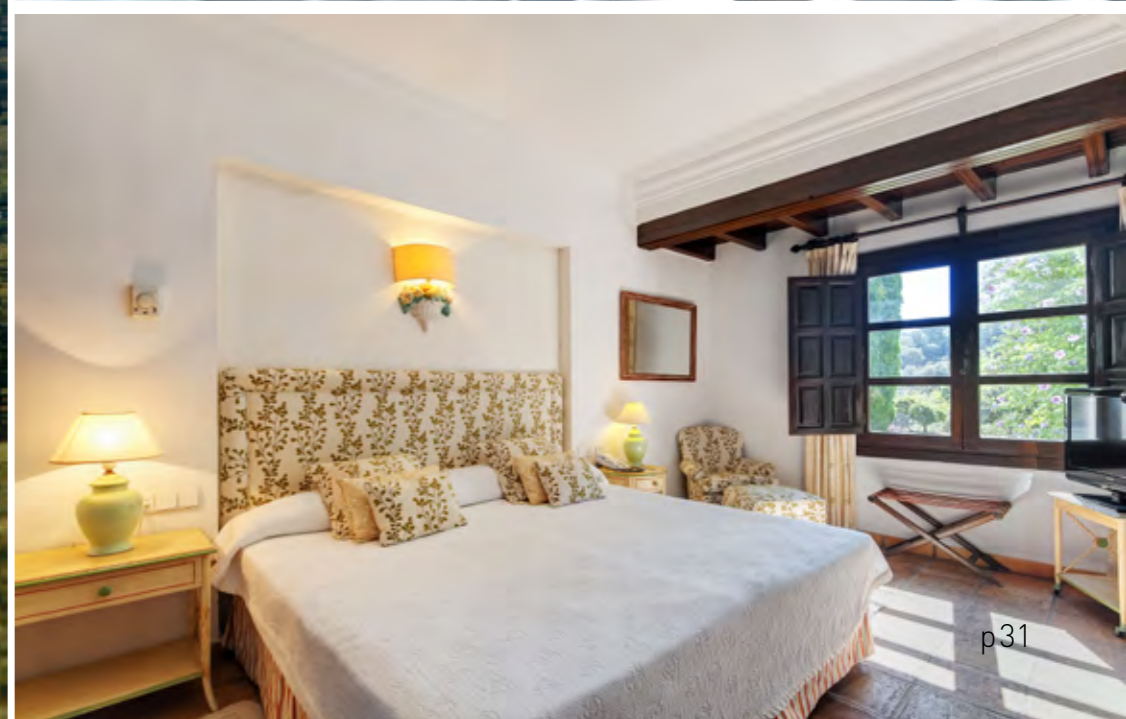
Sights around Granada



“HEAD away from the crowds to
your LUXURY countryside hotel...
...built in Andalusian style,
nestled in the Sierra de Loja...”



Loja, Granada





“The FIRST of many amazing landscapes...”

“...and FUN roads!

DRIVE across
this sea of olive trees
in the land of LIQUID GOLD...”

Andalusia is the largest olive oil producer in the world

“ Amidst CRYSTAL CLEAR water
from the Sierra Nevada,
DISCOVER the Iberian sturgeon and
TASTE its delicious caviar...”





“ ...AND to make sure you know where you are... one of many BULL signs you will see along the way!”



“speaking of BULLS...
time to stop at a
bull breeding farm
owned by a bull fighter...”

Bull fighting farm, Málaga



“...and EXPERIENCE first hand...
a DEHESA, a wooded
pastureland...

THIS is the setting for the
breeding of the BRAVEST of its
inhabitants...”

“ Weather permitting*,
LUNCH in the pastureland
underneath oak trees -
home-cooked food prepared
the way the bull fighter
and his family likes it!”

Málaga
[*lunch arrangements, may be subject to change]



“ More FRESH air...
Beautiful scenery...
and AMAZING landscapes -
as you head towards Costa del Sol
where you will stay for
TWO nights...”

“ This hotel EFFORTLESSLY combines indulgent luxury with homely comfort, a PERFECT home away from home...”



Casares, near Costa del Sol





“Today will be a day of **DRIVING**....
in rugged Sierra de Grazalema –
Andalucía’s first *parque natural* –
a stunning wild place of peaks,
lakes, gorges...”



“...dotted with white hilltop villages, also known as Pueblos Blancos ...”



Zahara de la Sierra

“LUNCH...
will be in the village of
Zahara de la Sierra
with a view of this lake...”





“...and now for a well
DESERVED dinner...
Andalusian or Japanese?”



Casares, near Costa del Sol



**“Stop BESIDE THE SEA in Tarifa,
Spain’s southernmost point,
where the Atlantic meets the
Mediterranean...”**



Straits of Gibraltar, the Moroccan coast can be seen in the distance

“...followed by a place where others have already LEFT THEIR MARK...”



Steven
MAT Spielberg
Amyselwing
1987

TO THE RT HONOR
WINSTON CHURCHILL
K.G. G.W. ES. MP.
Y HONOR OF HIS
10 TH BIRTHDAY

Severo Ochoa
Premio Nobel de Medicina
2 de Abril de 1975
Premio Nobel de Fisiología y Medicina 1959

W. Ochoa

M. Jellinek
Oct 10 1970
Perry Dillmore
Member of the Board of Directors 1967

S. Mercom
Marian Pustina Harlan
29-4-28
Premio Nobel de Física 1909

A fine sherry producer, Jerez

“FLAMENCO...
the spirit of Andalusia...”



Although flamenco dancing might be more recognisable,
the *canto* (singing) is the true heart and soul of true flamenco

“TOP it off with...
AMAZING tapas...
and a BEAUTIFUL NEW
hotel for the night!”



Jerez, Cádiz



“EXPERIENCE
a BALLET of a different
kind... before a short
drive...”



Purebred Andalusian Horse

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

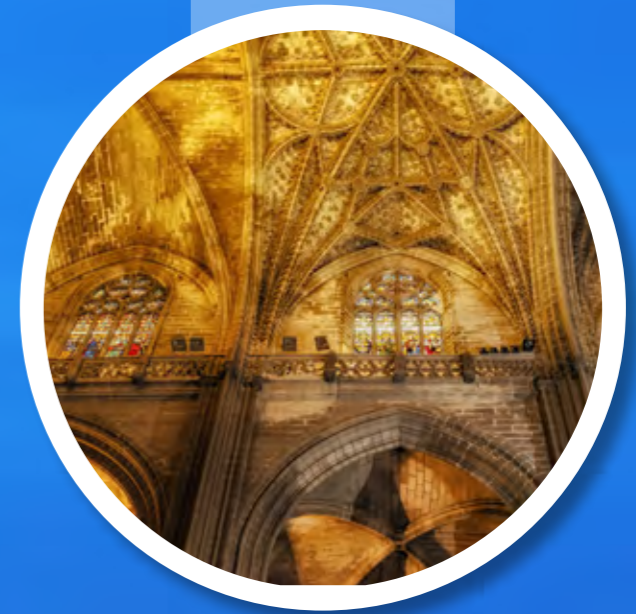
- *Energetic temperament*
- *Poised, graceful and docile*
- *Talent for rhythm*
- *Quick to react and respond*
- *Calm and strong*
- *Suitable for all forms of dressage*
- *Agility and Ability to extend and elevate*
- *Nimble*



“How the Andalusian Horses Dance” performance, Jerez



“...to Sevilla,
a CITY of wonders...here
the CATHEDRAL, the THIRD
LARGEST in the WORLD...”



“ELEGANT LUXURY
in the HEART of
Sevilla...”





La Catedral de Sevilla

“Awe-inspiring architecture from the ground...”





“...and from
ROOFTOPS...”

From the Roof top of Iglesias El Salvador, Sevilla



“Some FREE time...
to explore this very
walkable city... before...”



Sights around Sevilla



“...a horse-driven
CARRIAGE ride through...”



“...the city’s most BEAUTIFUL park ...”

Parque de María Luisa, Sevilla

“NIGHTFALL...
is when the city truly
COMES ALIVE...
the later the BETTER!”



Evening in Sevilla



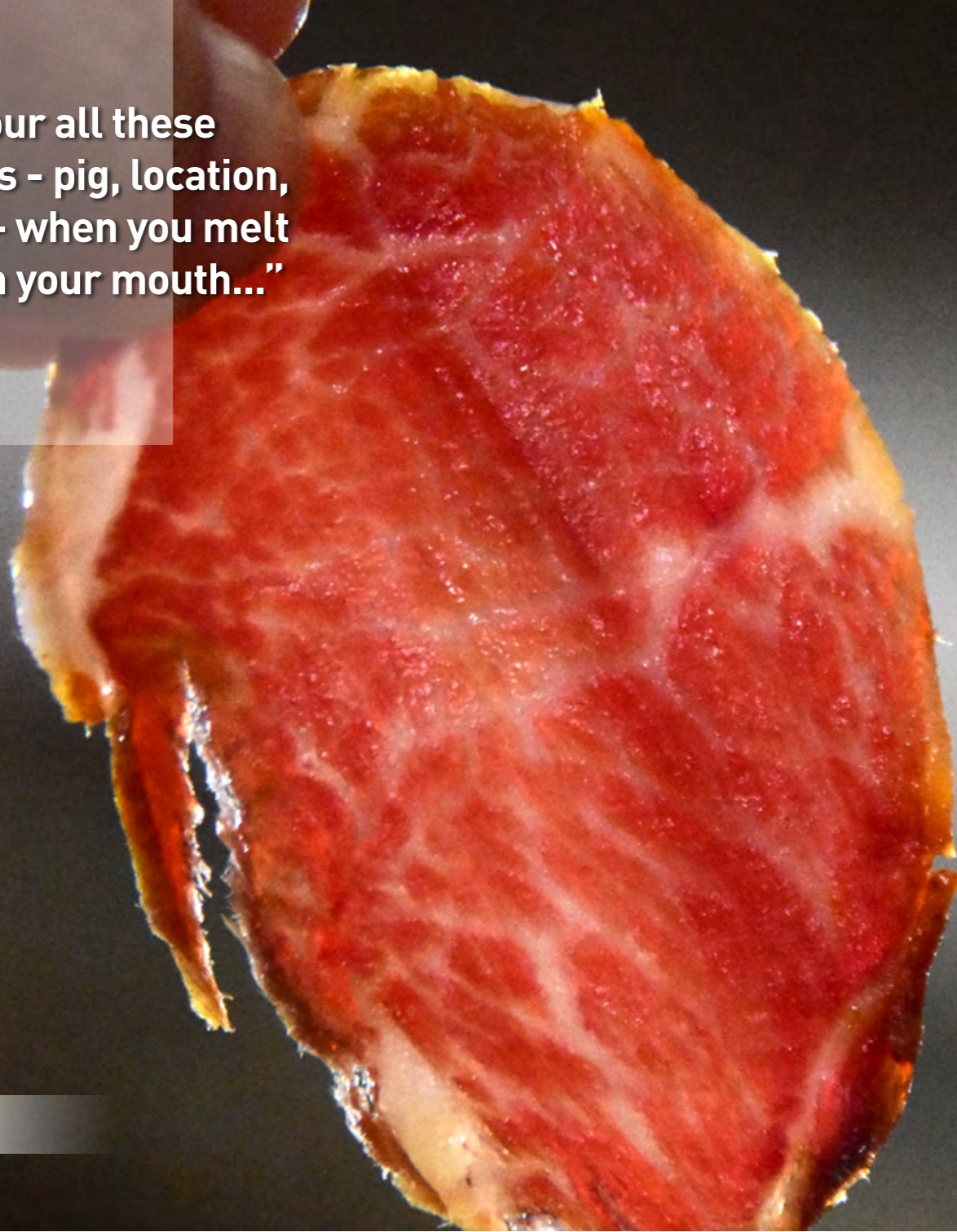
“OINK!

See Iberian pigs foraging
around in the *dehesa*...”

“ Even with plenty of **FREEDOM** to roam the dehesa, these pigs still recognise the farmer who looks after their **WOODLAND HOME...**”



“Savour all these elements - pig, location, climate - when you melt a slice in your mouth...”

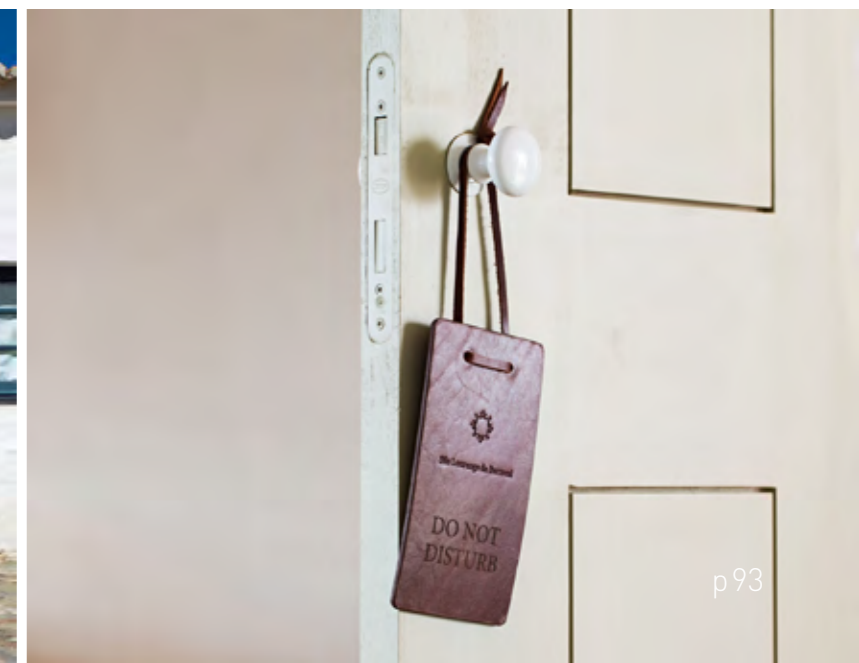


Sierra de Aracena



**“ Now on to ALENTEJO...
a region like
no other in the WORLD
for STAR GAZING...”**

“ And RIGHT HERE, an OASIS
in the middle of NOWHERE...
STAY in a village that offers
5-STAR service! ”





Near Monsaraz, Portugal



“THE PERFECT place for RELAXATION or different EXCURSIONS...”



“Broaden your
HORIZONS in Alentejo’s
wide open spaces...”

Near Monsaraz, Portugal

“ In a land RICH in clay...
discover a nearby VILLAGE
where generations of potters have
HONED their CRAFT...”



Near Monsaraz, Portugal




“DRIVE through
CORK oak country...
a rare experience...”



A 540ha estate, at foothills of Sierra D'Ossa



“ Did you know...
this land is the largest
producer of cork
in the WORLD?”



“SUNSET...
on the way back to your
village ‘hotel’...”



“ More OPEN spaces...
as you head SOUTH...”

“ At last, ARRIVING by the OCEAN... for a complete CHANGE in SCENERY...”




“...and a GRAND hotel with expansive grounds...”

Near Porches

“and spacious,
modern...”



Near Porches



“ At a nearby village,
enjoy a LEISURELY stroll...
FRESH air,
and SEA breezes before...”



“ DINNER - the best CATAPLANA (seafood stew) in the Algarve...”

At a small family-run seafood Portuguese restaurant, Algarve



“ Spend your LAST day in the ALGARVE relaxing in your hotel - OR, join an excursion that will...”





“...take you to the
EDGE!”



“ Before one final
BACK ROAD drive,
until...”

“...the ROAD
goes no further...
...stumble into a TINY
restaurant for the very
freshest seafood!”






“...and if you WISH
to go further...
how about views...
FROM the SEA?”



Near Porches



“ For dinner,
a rather more
REFINED setting...”

A wide-angle photograph of the Vasco da Gama Bridge in Lisbon, Portugal, spanning across the Tagus River. The bridge features two large cable-stayed pylons and a long trestle section. The scene is captured during sunset, with a warm orange and red glow on the horizon and a deep blue sky. The water in the foreground is a vibrant blue with gentle ripples. In the background, the city of Lisbon is visible on the left side of the river.

“ And to finish your
DRIVING JOURNEY, cross the
VASCO da GAMA BRIDGE into...”

“...the HEART of LISBOA...”

Day-by-day



Day 1 Start your journey with an easy drive to your hotel in Granada

Welcome to Andalusia!

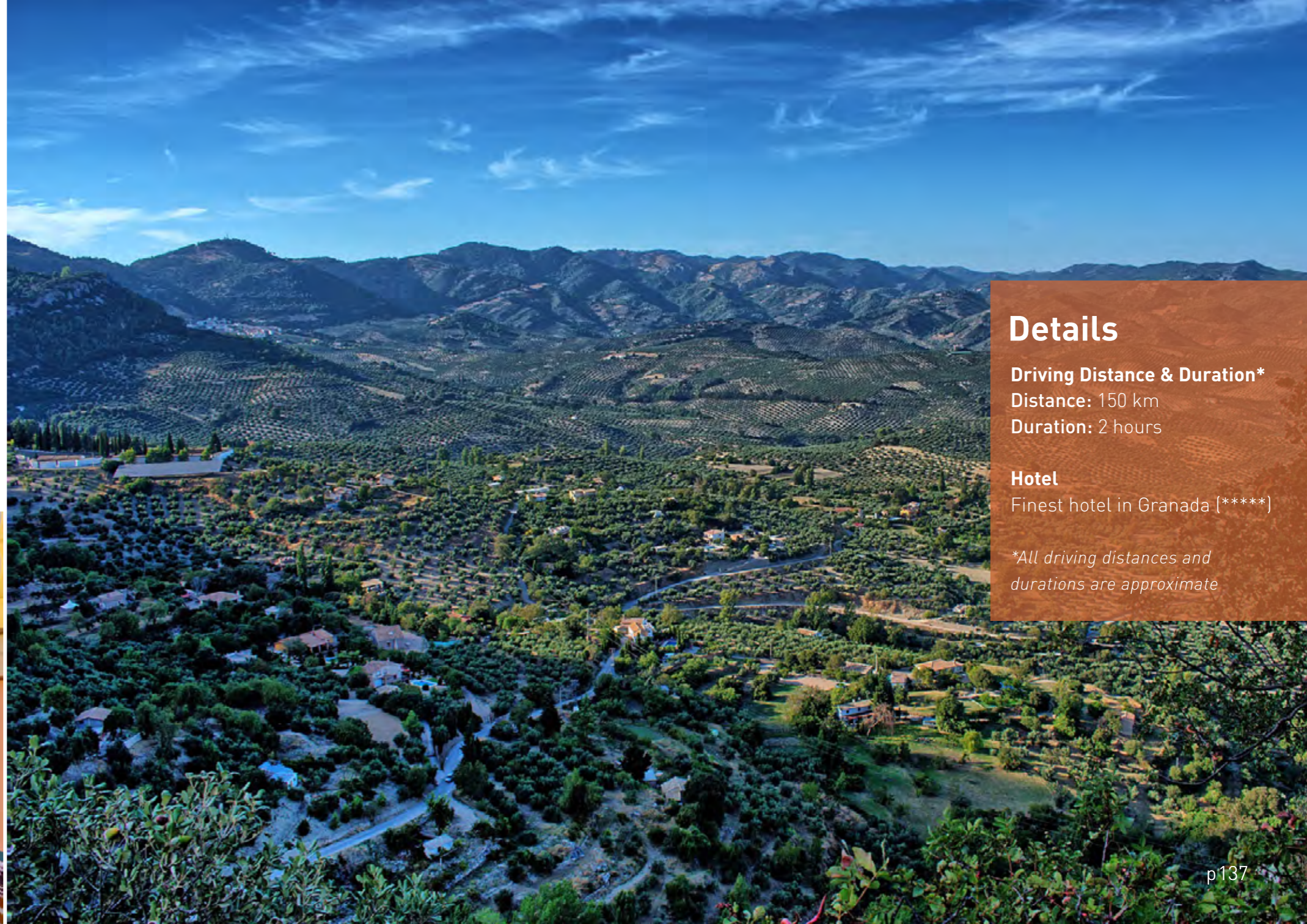
Your journey will start in this region, the only place in Europe with both Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines.

Arrive at Málaga airport by your own arrangements. If you can, we would recommend arriving before 12 noon, but up until 3pm is also ok.

Your car will be waiting for you. The first drive of this journey will take you through the Sierra Nevada, home of Spain's highest mountain, to Granada. On a clear day, it will be a wonderful welcome to Andalusia.

Tonight you will stay in a five-star hotel that exudes tradition and luxury right next to the splendid UNESCO World Heritage Site, The Alhambra.

A specially prepared dinner will be arranged to welcome you.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration*

Distance: 150 km

Duration: 2 hours

Hotel

Finest hotel in Granada (*****)

**All driving distances and durations are approximate*

Day 2 Visit the Alhambra and around Granada. Then head to your countryside hotel in the Sierra de Loja

Start your day with a visit to the Alhambra, one of the world's greatest architectural wonders. The Alhambra is a beautiful complex of buildings and gardens built originally as a stronghold by the Moors, and sits in a hilltop location overlooking Granada. From here, there are awe-inspiring views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the rolling hills of the Andalusian countryside.

The Moorish palaces of the Alhambra date from the 13th century, a time when Islamic art enjoyed its last flowering on the Iberian Peninsula. Described by contemporary poets as "a pearl set in emeralds", the Alhambra's palaces and gardens – the latter planted with roses, orange trees and myrtles – were intended as nothing less

than a vision of heaven on earth.

Despite their understandable popularity with modern-day visitors, the palace quadrangles – with their streams, fountains and reflecting pools – still feel like oases of timeless beauty.

After leaving the Alhambra, take a stroll through the winding lanes of the Albaicin, a neighbourhood which has retained much of its Medieval Moorish layout. Alternatively, attend a short perfume workshop where you can take away your own fragrant creation crafted from the exotic aromas of Andalusia.

Lunch will be at a lovely family restaurant that has been in business for almost 50 years. It is a local institution serving classic Granadino cuisine, as well as the Arab-inflected Andalusian dishes loved by locals. Favourites include a delicious oxtail stew, reminiscent of wine-braised oxtail (紅酒燴牛尾)!

In the afternoon, you will drive west into the countryside of Sierra de Loja to a beautiful, luxury country estate hotel with white houses and terracotta roofs nestled in olive grove-covered landscape. Enjoy dinner and a night here in fine Andalusian hospitality.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 120 km

Duration: 3 hours

Hotel

A luxury country estate hotel by the Sierra de Loja (*****)

Day 3 Country roads and artisan farms - A day of Andalusian countryside and hospitality

You will begin your day with a visit to the oldest and largest sturgeon farm in Europe, not far from your hotel. The caviar produced by this family-run operation was the first in the world to be certified 100% organic. Meet a member of the family, discover how sturgeon are bred and taste the farm's delicate caviar.

With the flavour of caviar lingering on your taste buds, you will continue your drive west. Your next stop will be at a farm that specialises in breeding fighting bulls and Andalusian horses.

Discover how bulls are reared and selected for bull fights. In a similar way that cattle are selected and reared for the dairy or meat industries, in Spain bulls are reared

specifically for the bullfight in bull estate farms. Bulls bred for meat alone live for only 18 months or so, whereas the *toro de lidia*, the fighting bull, lives for about 5 years on average, is well looked after and given ample space in which to exercise and roam around the fields.

The stud farm we will visit is owned by a former bull fighter and his family; if he is not here to welcome you in person, a member of his close-knit team will do so instead. Lunch will

either be on the farm or in a nearby village.

In the afternoon another enjoyable drive awaits, through forested mountains with plenty of panoramic vistas. Just a kilometre away from the madding crowds of the Costa del Sol, you will swing through the gates of your hotel, situated on a 500-hectare estate, and discover a very different world.

You will stay in Casares for two nights.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 220 km

Duration: 4 hours

Hotel

An elegant country estate hotel, just off the Costa del Sol (*****)



Day 4 A day of relaxation - or explore the Sierra de Grazalema's whitewashed villages

Today, there is a lot to see and experience. Gorgeous roads and awe-inspiring scenery, coupled with little traffic promise an amazing drive through the hinterland of Casares, if only you can tear yourself away from your hotel...

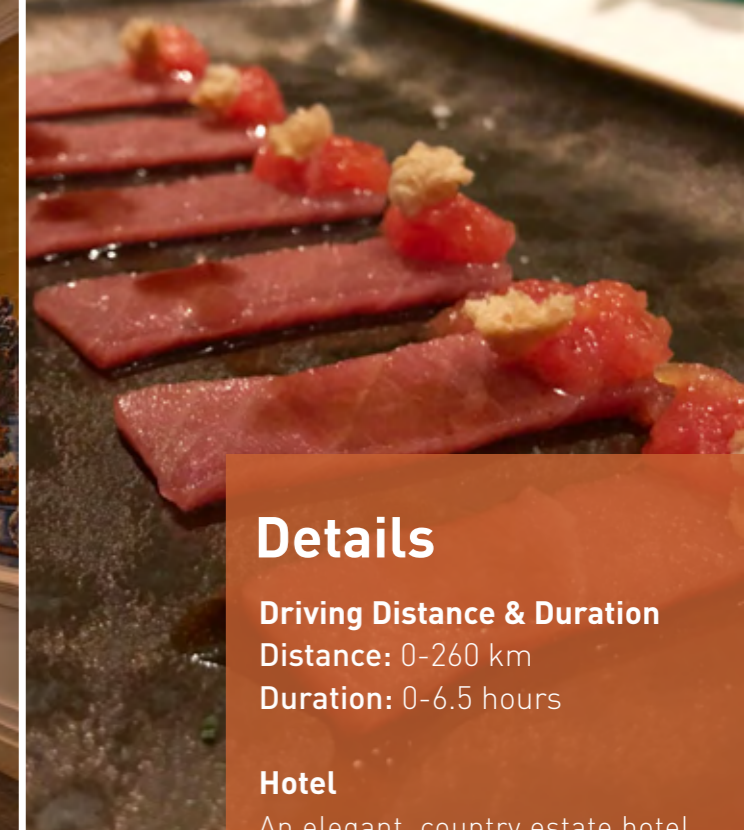
Of course, the choice is yours. Either stay put and relax in your elegant hotel (and flexibility to have your own lunch plans*) or indulge in a full day of driving on wonderful,

winding roads through the beautiful Sierra de Grazalema natural park and the white villages of Andalusia, also known as the pueblos blancos. Should you choose to join our excursion, you will have lunch in a lakeside pueblo blanco, with jagged mountains as a dramatic backdrop.

We will aim to return to the hotel several hours before dinner, so you may just have time to enjoy both options.

Dinner tonight will be special, so do refrain having seconds during lunch!

**Lunch is not included if choice is to have day of rest - and not join full day's drive*



Details

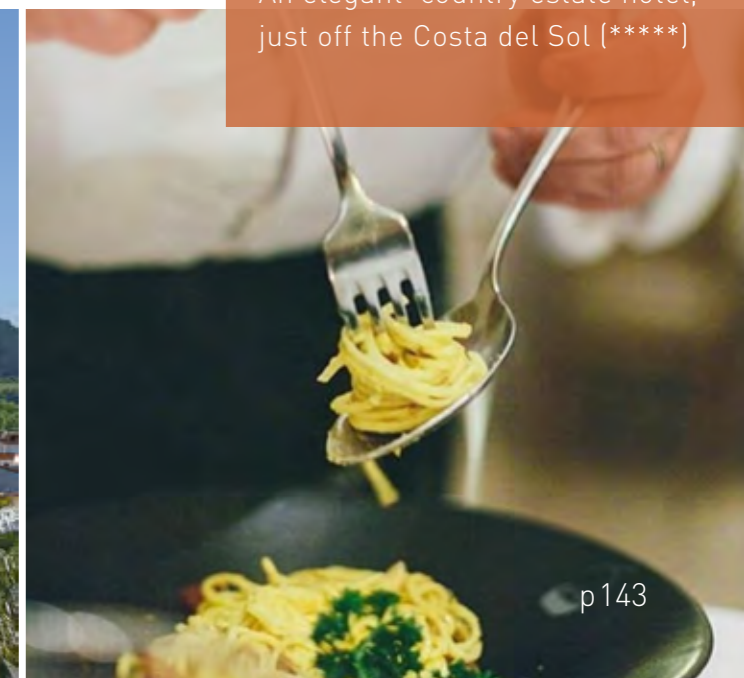
Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0-260 km

Duration: 0-6.5 hours

Hotel

An elegant country estate hotel, just off the Costa del Sol [*****]



Day 5 Experience Jerez's rich history and culture

This morning we have planned a leisurely start, departing from your hotel mid-morning.

You will drive further west towards Gibraltar from where, weather permitting, you can see the north coast of Africa.

Lunch today will be in Barbate, also known as the tuna capital of the world. Barbate's fishermen double as divers, plunging into the sea to trap and catch eight-foot Atlantic bluefin tuna using a centuries-old technique called la almadraba. Around 80% of their high-quality catch is exported to Japan, the world's largest market for tuna. Your lunch menu will highlight the fish's delicate flavour in every gastronomic dish.

The afternoon's drive will be a short one to Jerez, also known

as Jerez de la Frontera. Your hotel is the only five-star luxury hotel in Jerez, right in the heart of the city.

We will arrive with time to relax before dinner, though a Sherry tour and tasting can be arranged, should you wish for an aperitif. Jerez lies at the easternmost corner of this region's "Sherry Triangle", making it an excellent place to sample the fortified wine.

This evening's program has been specially arranged for you in order to give you the most authentic yet comfortable experience, it will comprise three elements - tapas, *tabanco* and flamenco.

Start with tapas at Chef Pablo's. Chef Pablo has become well respected in gastronomic circles, but still retains an enthusiastic local base, as you will find. A *tabanco* is a type of atmospheric sherry bar-cum-wine shop that is unique to Jerez. Locals consider

tabancos the best places to socialise over tapas and listen to flamenco.

There are four elements to authentic flamenco: *cante* (voice), *baile* (dance), *toque* (guitar) and *jaleo*, which literally translates as "hell-

raising" - the hand-clapping, foot-stomping and shouts of encouragement that accompany each performance.

Nowadays, pure flamenco styles and performances take place in *tabancos* and *peñas*, mostly spontaneously. Those

that are scheduled in theatres are organized for tourism purposes.

We hope that this evening will be filled with first-time experiences that you will remember fondly, long after leaving Jerez!



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 200 km

Duration: 3 hours

Hotel

The Best 5-star hotel in Jerez
(*****)

Day 6 Discover the grace of Andalusia's horses before driving to Sevilla, the Andalusian capital

In anticipation of a late night in Jerez, we have planned a later than usual start today.

In the morning, you have the option of watching a breathtaking equestrian ballet, staged by the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art.

Andalusian horses have long been sought after in Europe for their grace and noble temperaments, both amply on display in this memorable show.

After lunch, you will drive to Sevilla along country roads. In Sevilla, you will stay in an iconic, 5-star hotel, right in the heart of the city. In the past, the hotel has hosted some famous guests, from Princess

Grace of Monaco and Sofia Loren to Brad Pitt.

Once in Sevilla, step into the city's royal past with a visit to the Royal Alcázar Palace of Sevilla, one of the most beautiful palaces in Spain. This is a rare opportunity to visit

a historic monument that is occasionally still occupied by its royal residents - the royal family use the palace's upper chambers when they are in Sevilla.

In the evening, take a short stroll through the city. In a

narrow alley, you will have dinner will be in a restaurant well known for the best Sevillian seafood cuisine!

You will stay in Sevilla for two nights.

Did you know that most of the interior scenes in the 1962 film Lawrence of Arabia were filmed in Sevilla?

The city was chosen for its great architectural variety and many historic buildings.

Details

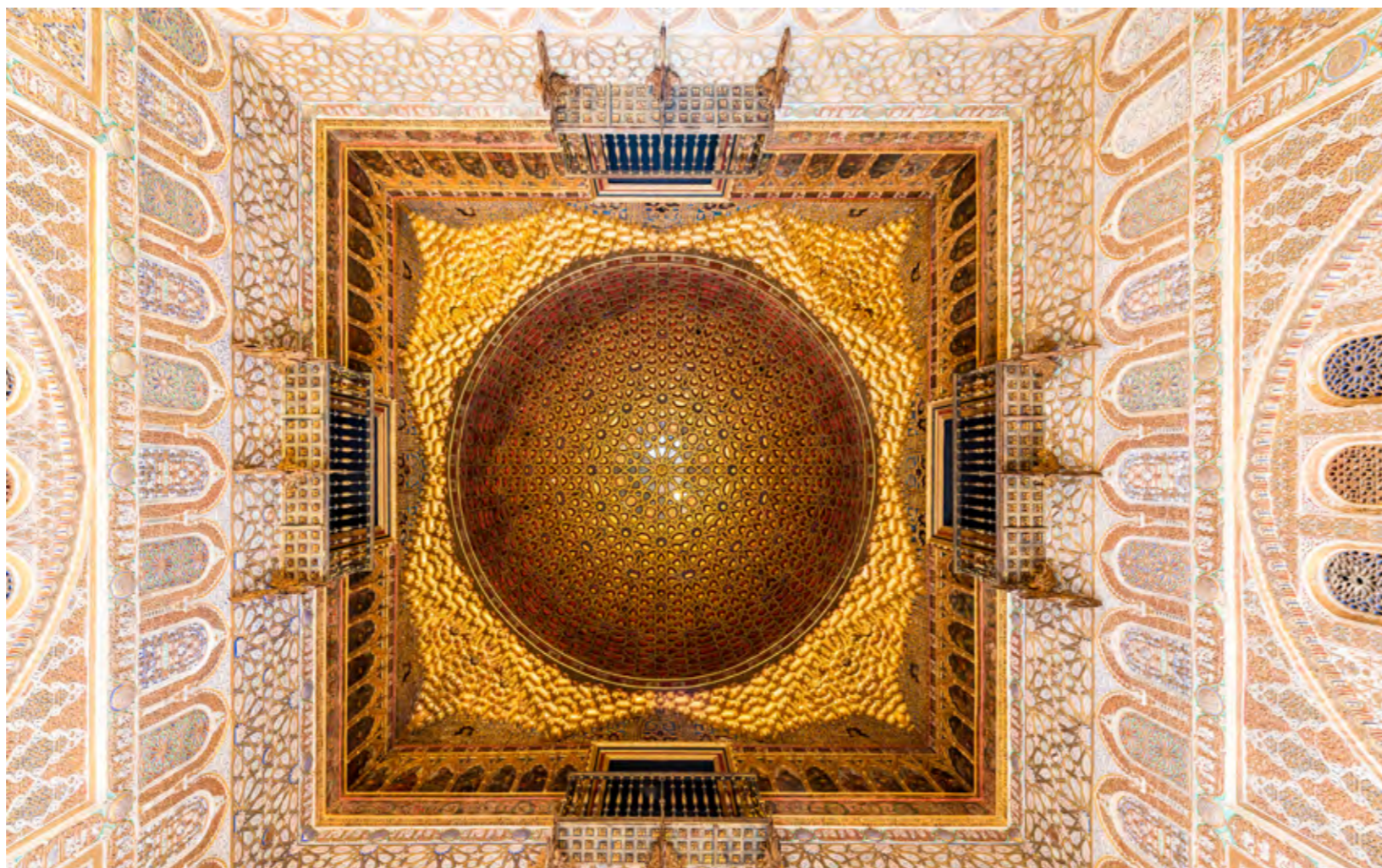
Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 100 km

Duration: 1.5 hours

Hotel

An iconic five-star hotel in Sevilla (*****)



Day 7

Be charmed and seduced by the majestic and historic city of Sevilla

Today, your morning will be free for a relaxing start, a stroll and/or some shopping. Our team will be at hand to offer suggestions and directions.

You will be picked up from your hotel for lunch, Spanish local time... i.e. late.

After this late lunch, you will be guided on a tour of Sevilla's magnificent cathedral (the world's third largest), and private entry to the rooftop of the nearby El Salvador church for incredible views over the cathedral, towers and the city below.

In the late afternoon, we recommend a horse-drawn carriage ride through the gardens and plaza of the Parque de Maria Luisa, before dinner.

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For dinner tonight we have selected an elegant restaurant that will take you back into the days of Sevillian court culture.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0 km

Duration: 0 hours

Hotel

An iconic five-star hotel in Sevilla (*****)

Day 8

Discover the secrets of the world's finest *jamón* in Jabugo, before driving on to Portugal's Alentejo region

Today, you will visit a special farm where the pigs roam and forage freely upon acres of land, sparsely forested with holm oaks, known in Spanish as *dehesa*. You will also be guided through the cellar and drying house by the family, before settling down for a tasting of Iberian ham and a homemade lunch.

The pigs here are either pure Iberian breeds, or a spotted native breed known as *Manchado de Jabugo*. Iberian pigs are unusual in that their fat is stored throughout their bodies, even in their muscle tissues. When a pig has matured on a diet rich in its favourite food - acorns - the fat has a superior quality,

elevating the resulting jamón's texture, aroma and flavour. After lunch, you will continue the drive west into the countryside of Alentejo, Portugal. You will notice a distinct change in scenery as you enter this vast and sparsely populated region which cover 30% of Portugal and is characterised by its gently rolling landscape, hilltop villages and expansive views.

Once in Portugal, you will need to turn your watches back an hour.

Tonight, you will stay in a tiny village with five-star service. How is that possible? Well, this whole village is a hotel!



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 240 km

Duration: 4 hours

Hotel

The village estate with five-star service in understated luxury (*****)



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Day 9 Explore the wide open spaces of Alentejo, and meet the region's little-known inhabitants

Begin the day with a lovely breakfast spread in your own countryside 'village'.

This morning, you will drive to a neighbouring village where, due to the local abundance of clay, many residents specialize in high quality pottery. You will meet a potter and hear about the his family's tradition and history, watch how the clay is formed into richly decorated ceramic pieces. There will be time to browse the other potteries in this village in search of the perfect souvenir.

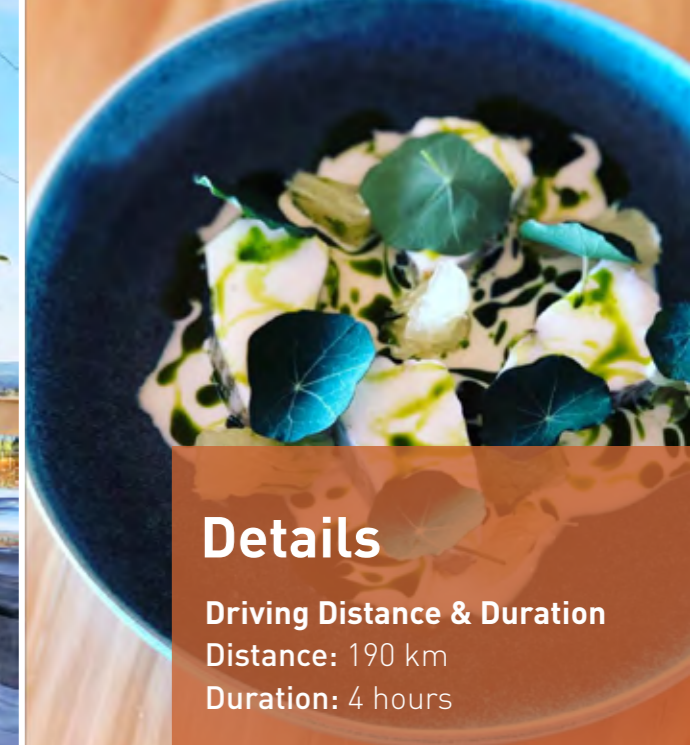
Next, treat yourself to lunch in a gourmet restaurant on a vineyard estate with expansive views of the Alentejana countryside.

In the afternoon, you will take a drive through cork country. Portugal, where the cork oak is protected by law, produces around 50% of the world's cork harvest from thousands of acres of protected forest. You will have the opportunity to tour a cork farm by jeep and gain a first-hand appreciation for the rich ecosystems that thrive in Alentejo's cork oak woodlands, or *montados*, as well as the amazing qualities of cork itself.

Afterwards, you will return to your hotel for some free time. Just before sunset, you may drive to the nearest village, historic Monsaraz, for a short stroll and a view over Alqueva Lake.

Dinner will be in a restaurant just outside Monsaraz run by a friendly and very capable chef. Taste freshly prepared Alentejan dishes, some of which are specialties that we will need to pre-order.

With some advance arrangements (and good weather), you may also have the option to go stargazing - this part of Alentejo enjoys some of the clearest night skies in Europe and is an internationally recognised "Starlight Tourism Destination".



Details

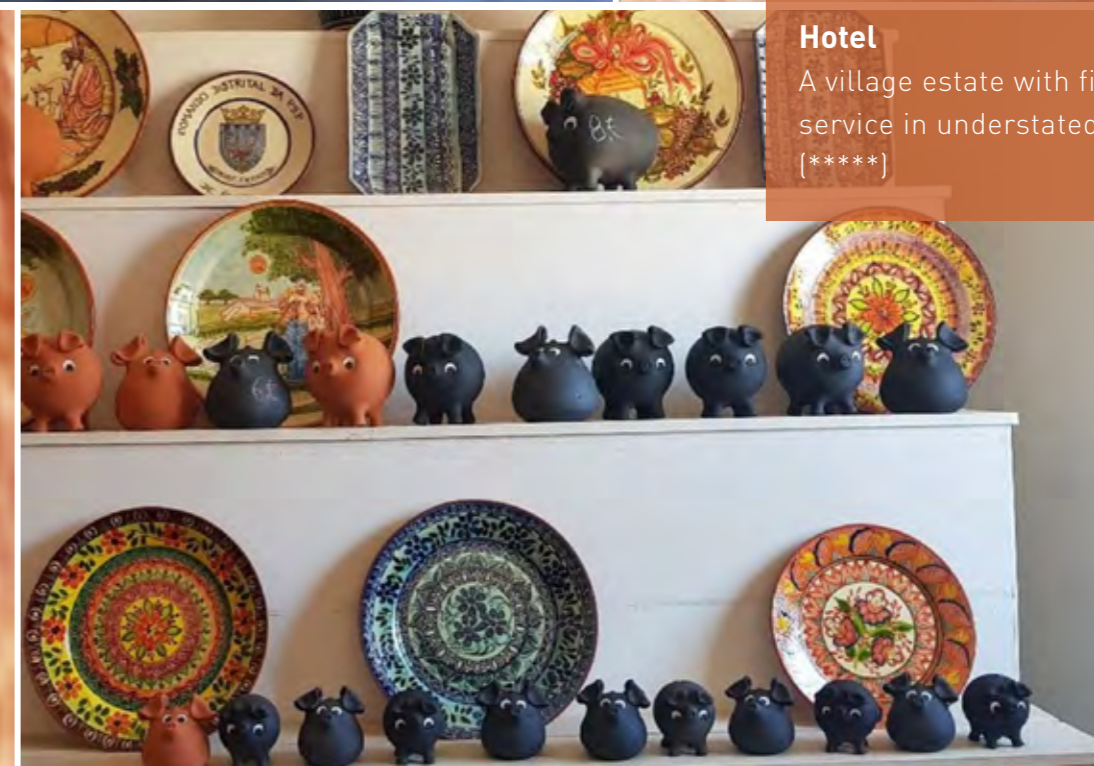
Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 190 km

Duration: 4 hours

Hotel

A village estate with five-star service in understated luxury [*****]



Day 10 Discover a rugged landscape of wild mountains en route to the deep blue waters of Portugal' Atlantic coast

Today you will head further south to the Algarve and its beautiful coast.

Along the way, you will drive through the mountain range that separates the Algarve from Alentejo on Portugal's National Road 2, the country's longest road. The section you will drive today runs through rugged scenery, wild mountains and little-visited villages.

Lunch might be prearranged at a hospitable couple's home with fresh produce from their farm, or wonderful tapas in a restaurant, a hidden gem, that serves amazing cuisine focussed on game from the nearby mountains, with fresh, locally-grown vegetables and herbs.

Arrive at your luxurious resort, set amidst lush gardens in a spectacular cliff-top location. You will have some free time.

At sunset, visit a nearby town for amazing views of its coastal rock and cliff formations. A short stroll through the town will take you to the small restaurant where you will eat dinner. The owner chef is well-known locally as a master of Portuguese cooking. Some of his specialities will be pre-ordered for you.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 260 km

Duration: 4 hours

Hotel

A five-star oasis in Porches
(*****)

You will stay in the Algarve for two nights.

Day 11 A day of relaxation - or explore the 'roads less travelled' in western Algarve

The sun shines on the Algarve for over 3,000 hours a year. There is much to explore here, ranging from sun-drenched beaches and seaside cafes to the dramatic coastline with its cliffs, sea arches and caves, from fishing villages to hilltop towns. But the question, once again, will be whether you find yourself able to leave the comforts of your hotel.

You have two options today:

1. Relax in your hotel, and/or visit a nearby coastal town for some browsing and shopping. To give you flexibility, lunch* will not be included for this option - OR -
2. Venture out for a last 'back roads' drive of 2-3 hours to the west of the Algarve. Have lunch at a tiny cliff-top restaurant wonderful views of the waves below. You will return to the hotel around 4pm.

Should you wish, it is also possible to arrange a short sunset cruise, the better to appreciate the Algarve's beauty from the sea.

Dinner tonight will be fine dining in the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant.

**Lunch is not included for Option 1*



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 155 km

Duration: 0-3 hours

Hotel

A five-star oasis in Porches
(*****)

Day 12 Drive across the longest bridge in Europe, the Vasco da Gama bridge, to Lisboa

Your last driving day will take you to Portugal's capital Lisboa, across the longest bridge in Europe, the Vasco da Gama bridge.

You will arrive in Lisboa in time for lunch. Lunch* is not included today to allow you more flexibility and free time. The afternoon will free for you to relax, shop or discover the neighbourhood. Our team will be on hand to help with suggestions and directions. But whatever you do, please leave time to taste a Portuguese custard tart, *pastel de nata*. Visiting Lisboa without doing so is like leaving Paris without seeing the Eiffel Tower. Try one warm and sprinkled with cinnamon or powdered sugar — and please, don't



think of ordering one to split between two! I

In a city with access to top-quality fish, seafood and organic produce, and flavours from around the world (a long tradition that can, in part, be traced back to Portugal's 15th- and 16th century spice route), please rest assured that tonight's farewell dinner will be a memorable one!

**Day 12 lunch is not included.*

Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 265 km

Duration: 3 hours

Hotel

A luxury five-star hotel in Lisboa (*****)



Day 13 Fly home, or extend your stay in Lisboa

Today will be a free day for you to do last minute shopping. We can provide you with a list of our recommendations of places to explore and shop in Lisboa.

Depending on whether you extend your stay or must fly out today, we can help you with transfers and connections.

All good things must come to an end. We wish you a safe and enjoyable onward journey, wherever it takes you!

Choice of Cars



A cabriolet is included in your package price.

We strongly encourage you to enjoy this journey in an open-top car because the natural beauty, the fresh and scented air, the glorious mountains, the vineyards, and the many gorgeous roads are best enjoyed when wind is in your air and you can fully immerse yourself in the enjoyment of being on the road!

Of course, if you prefer a coupe or sedan of the same class or something a little (or a lot) more exotic, we're happy to offer you upgrade options.

**“For these lands,
and for these
roads...”**

Understanding Andalusian Food and Cuisine...

While this itinerary is not specifically a food-themed journey, we do believe that understanding more about the Andalusian approach to food will enrich your experience. Especially, tapas... as *el tapeo* originated from Andalusia!


Have you ever sat in a tapas bar in Spain and observed how the Spanish consume their food? Social conversations take front and centre, and as such it is understandable that eating is mostly done while standing. Conversation is punctuated with sips of sherry or beer. Food is served in bite-sized portions or on platters for sharing.

So much in common with an Asian's view of dining and food!

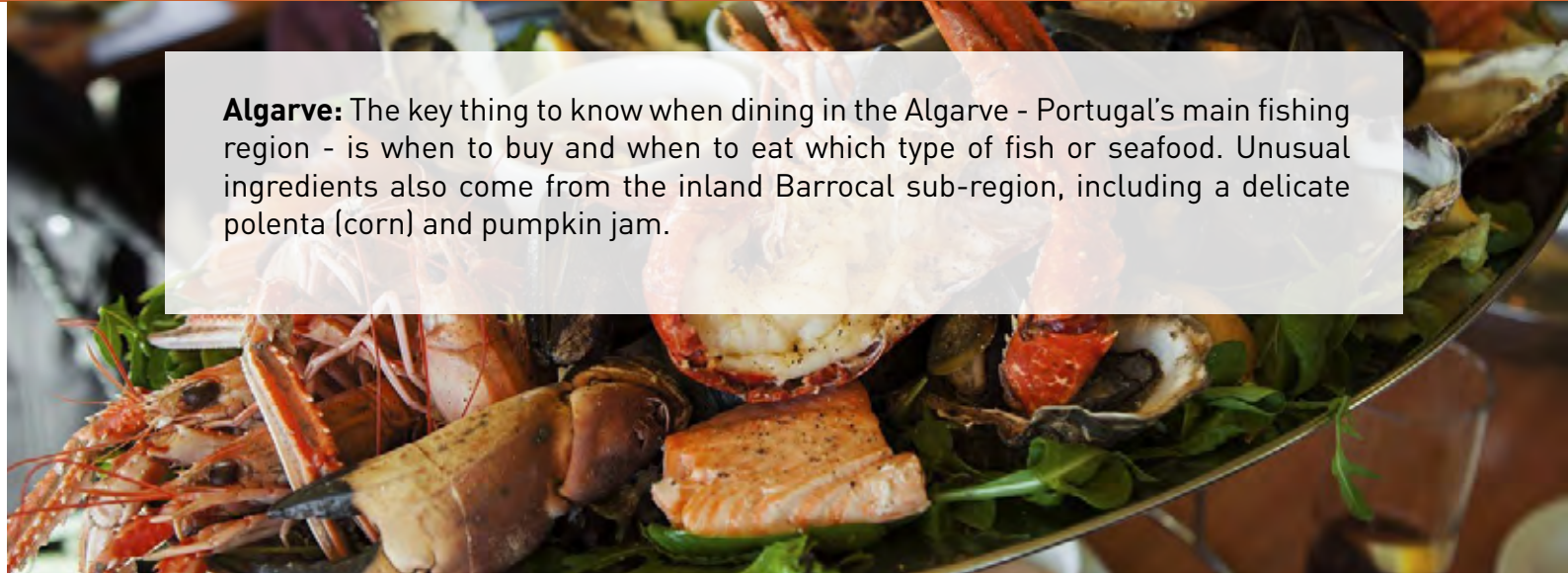


Roasted red peppers, olive oil, saffron, paprika, oranges ... all part of the healthy Mediterranean diet

... as well as Portugese Food and Cuisine



Alentejo: This sunny region covers a third of Portugal. Historically, most Alentejanos worked on the land. The region's delicious and fatty black pork is king of meats here, although beef and game also plays their parts in the Alentejan kitchen - primarily in winter. Seasonal vegetables like wild asparagus, mushrooms, cauliflower and tomatoes are also delicious additions to the table.



Algarve: The key thing to know when dining in the Algarve - Portugal's main fishing region - is when to buy and when to eat which type of fish or seafood. Unusual ingredients also come from the inland Barrocal sub-region, including a delicate polenta (corn) and pumpkin jam.



Discover *petiscos*...the Portuguese cousin of tapas – spiced with exotic ingredients introduced during Portugal's colonial past

What's Included / Best Months to Go...



Best months to go...

JAN FEB **MAR** **APR** **MAY** **JUN**

JUL AUG **SEPT** **OCT** NOV DEC

Generally speaking, our journey packages and prices are all-inclusive. Once you've paid and you arrive at the starting point, you really won't have to take out your wallet again except for liquids (alcoholic drinks and petrol) and presents to take home!

- Hand-crafted *On the Road in Europe* – Back Roads. Hidden Gems. – Itinerary design as

described in this Journey Dossier

- A crew consisting of a journey host, subject matter experts/destination guides in various locations and a lead car driver. Depending on group size, we will add additional crew members.
- All accommodation

- A BMW 4 Series Cabriolet (or similar) from one of our highly reputable car rental partners.

Many car-upgrade options exist at an extra charge. (and subject to availability)

- All ground transportation and airport transfers
- Pre-programmed GPSs and printed maps

- Walky-talkies to stay in touch with fellow travelers and your crew
- All toll fees and parking fees
- Entrance fees for all attended activities
- Lead car for your crew
- *On the Road in Europe* service (goodies basket and other treats along the way:

wet towels, daily picnic, basket containing fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and a mixture of sweets and nibbles)

- All tips

What's Not Included

- Your transport to Málaga and from Lisboa
- Day 12 lunch
- Petrol for your car

- Personal shopping
- Visas (if required)
- Alcoholic drinks (unless explicitly included)
- Activities, meals, transport during 'free times' as indicated in this Journey Dossier
- Top-up Collision Damage Waiver insurance



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ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

