

The Monte da Peceguina country-house hotel at Herdade da Malhadinha Nova, in Portugal's tranquil Lower Alentejo

# Iberian getaways

From Porto to Penedès, the wine regions of Spain and Portugal boast a wealth of vineyard-based hotels, all perfectly placed for soaking up the views – and the wine



## Torrabenc

Menorca

Two miles inland on the rugged Balearic isle of Menorca, you'll find Torrabenc. This smart boutique hotel and winery opened in 2013 after the 19th-century buildings were restored in the vision of a traditional Menorcan *finca*.

The first thing you see on arrival are whitewashed edifices topped with terracotta pantiles and pretty pink bougainvillea; but the true marvel of staying here is the view of the sparkling Mediterranean. Menorca has been a Unesco-rated biosphere since 1993, thanks to its stunning natural habitats and archaeological heritage. (A short stroll will take you to Menorca's famous megaliths, many dating back to 1000 BCE.)

Bodegas Torrabenc makes three wines from 10 grape varieties – including the indigenous Monastrell, Parellada, Malvasia and Manto Negro – from its 16ha of vineyards. All are bottled as Vi de la Terra de Menorca, the DO awarded to the island in 2002.



The small collection of bedrooms and standalone cottage are designed in the Menorcan style, with white walls, natural fabrics, wood and limestone; private gardens or balconies fill your room with aromas of rosemary and lavender. You can slip into wellness activities (also available to non-residents), ride a bike around the vineyards and dine at the award-winning

restaurant overseen by Michelin-starred Basque chef Gorka Txapartegi. And if you think Menorca is only for the summer, try a glass of wine under a starry late autumn sky. In many ways, it's what this magical island, and Torrabenc, secretly does best.

**Sophie McLean**

From £230 per night  
torrabenc.com

## Hotel Bodega Tío Pepe

Jerez

The historic heart of Jerez is, to say the least, atmospheric. The 17th-century cathedral towers over a labyrinthine network of whitewashed buildings, narrow streets, half-hidden courtyards and open plazas. Its Gothic facade, which glows golden in the Andalusian sun, is a landmark for tourists and residents alike. It's a toss-up, though, as to whether the cathedral or its near-neighbour, the equally historic Tío Pepe bodega, attracts most visitors on a daily basis.

Until fairly recently, Jerez lacked a hotel that lived up to the splendour of either cathedral or bodega, but in 2020 Tío Pepe opened the doors to its luxurious new 27-room property. The hotel is based within the walls of the vast winery complex, in a series of renovated 150-year-old buildings that were once home to the bodega's workers. Guests can enjoy all the benefits that you would expect from a modern hotel, but the highlights of a stay here might include watching the sun set over the cathedral and alcázar from the upper terrace as you sip a Sherry cocktail; breakfast in the shady tranquillity of the Pedro Nolasco gardens; and the



opportunity to wander at will around one of the region's largest working wineries.

Should you fancy getting to grips with the local wines during the course of your stay, there are plenty of chances to immerse yourself in Sherry culture, thanks to the wide range of winery tours, tutored tastings and vineyard visits available to guests. **Natasha Hughes MW**  
From €105 per night  
tiopepe.com/es-en/hotel

## Herdade da Malhadinha Nova

Alentejo

Herdade da Malhadinha Nova is situated in 450ha of rolling hills in the Lower Alentejo, one of the most peaceful and least populated areas of Portugal – and the source of increasingly compelling wines. A comfortable drive from the Algarve or Lisbon, this is a region of wide, clear, starlit skies, rolling meadows, stands of cork oaks, olive groves and vineyards. Livestock ranges at will – black pigs, horses, cattle – and Monte da Peceguina lies at the heart of the estate, the original farmhouse reimagined as the most delightful countryside hotel. It has three suites and seven rooms; two swimming pools; a spa, living room and library; and a wine bar. Five other buildings, most with their own swimming pool, now bring the total number of suites to 20. All are decorated with a blend of rustic Alentejo simplicity and luxurious modern furniture by Portuguese and international designers.

Malhadinha Nova's restaurant is impeccably modern, sourcing most of its fruit, herbs and vegetables from the kitchen garden and the beef, pork and lamb also from the estate. The winery makes an array of characterful wines



from 80ha of vineyards and offers tours, tastings and themed weekends. Both winery and accommodation are the creations, since 1998, of the Soares family, which has a chain of wine shops in the Algarve. **Charles Metcalfe**  
From €300 per night  
malhadinhanova.pt/en