

# MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

issue 79 • volume 08  
DECEMBER 14 / JANUARY 2015

PORTUGAL  
TRAVEL GUIDE  
2014/2015  
TRAVEL AWARDS  
DOUBLE ISSUE  
OVER 270 PAGES

## From soft power to firm beds: top nations, hotels and design

Monocle gets out its clipboard and sharpens its pencil to rank the key players in everything from diplomacy to aviation – a **MONOCLE SPECIAL**



### PORTUGAL:

A 36-page travel guide to the nation's best cities, beaches, vineyards and winning retreats



### SOFT POWER:

Who's up and who's down in our 16-page annual ranking of the world's softest super-powers



'Can I interest you in taking home the pick of the bunch? You'll be pleased you did'

### ANTWERP:

Enjoy diamonds, Dries and Demeulemeester in bountiful Belgium as we name our top spots for having your Christmas stocking stuffed with fine threads, fancy treats and a tight-fit mitt

- A AFFAIRS** Is that a rocket in your pocket? Why it's not for the ESA
- B BUSINESS** Made in France: a walk through the country's top shoe-making atelier
- C CULTURE** A preview of Basel's sultry Miami scene
- D DESIGN** Karl Lagerfeld: Berlin, lesbians, provenance and why it's good to spend
- E EDITS** Photographer Gordon Crewdson's 'last meal'

## BIG BUMP HOLIDAY THUMPER

Best-in-class airlines and hostels in our annual travel guide, plus a sit-down with Finland's PM, Tokyo's governor and a contender in our interview

### TRAVEL TOP 50

Komichi welcome aboard

### CHRISTMAS GINZA-STYLE

15-page fashion portfolio

Put a ribbon on it!

### FRANCE CALLING (Do you Radiooooo?)

Je t'aime

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

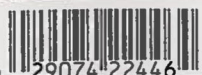
5 political profiles



Christmas

### TOOLS For LIFE

A practical gift guide



12 >

UK £6  
USD \$14  
EUR 14 (GER)  
EUR 11 (ITA)

SEK 109  
JPY ¥2,350 (+tax)  
AUD \$13.95  
SGD \$19.90 (w/gst)



# PORTUGAL: A MONOCLE TRAVEL GUIDE

№06  
2014/15

## Contents:

- 01 Map and introduction
- 02 Must-knows
- 03 City stops in Lisbon and Porto
- 04 Coastal tour
- 05 Rural retreats
- 06 Essential experiences



A Monocle  
Special Edition





#### SLIPPERY CUSTOMERS

Famous Portuguese soap maker Claus Porto's 1887 founders were in fact two German immigrants, who fled after the First World War.

#### VEGGIE LOVERS

Porto's São João festival is a pagan celebration made Catholic. The party sees revellers thump loved ones with leeks: a fertility symbol.

### Affordable rooms

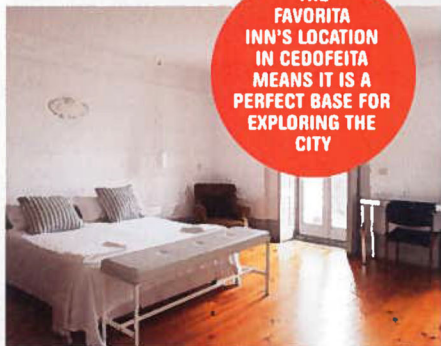
#### Favorita

The Favorita inn has rooms bathed in natural light, new and vintage furnishings and a homely vibe. Complimentary port is offered in the lounge and a downstairs dining room with garden patio serves hearty fish and meat dishes, tasty soups and a delicious apple torte.

[pensaofavorita.pt](http://pensaofavorita.pt)



THE FAVORITA INN'S LOCATION IN CEDOFEITA MEANS IT IS A PERFECT BASE FOR EXPLORING THE CITY



### Retail

#### Chocolateria Equador

In 2009, graphic designer Celestino Fonseca and sculptor Teresa Almeida (pictured) decided it was time to channel their creative energy into starting a confectionery company making mouthwatering artisanal truffles, bonbons and chocolate bars.

Sold in 1940s-style wrappers, their products are for sale in their two Porto shops in Rua Sá da Bandeira and Rua das Flores. Their dark chocolate Torrié flavour made with a blend of Arabica coffee beans is not to be missed.

[chocolateriaequador.com](http://chocolateriaequador.com)



### Bookshop

#### Livrário Lello

Opened in 1906, the Lello bookshop itself can distract readers browsing its 120,000 titles. Its façade hints at art nouveau but inside there is a neo-gothic feel thanks to a stained-glass skylight, ornate floor-to-ceiling plaster and a grand sweeping staircase, which leads to an upstairs café.

"We carry everything from the works of Camões to today's Nobel Prize-winning authors," says Antero Braga, who has been the general manager of the shop since 1994.

[Rua das Carmelitas 144](http://Rua das Carmelitas 144)



### Culture hotspots

#### 01

##### Casa das Artes

Cinema and exhibition space designed by architect Eduardo Souto de Moura and set in the gardens of a neoclassical mansion.

[casadasartes.pt](http://casadasartes.pt)

#### 02

##### Maus Hábitos

Fourth-floor restaurant in a 1930s art deco garage with a terrace that houses a mini art gallery and is a venue for live music.

[maushabitos.com](http://maushabitos.com)



### Q&A

#### Fernando Santos

Owner, Galeria

Fernando Santos

#### How has the city's art scene changed?

When I opened in 1993 in Rua Miguel Bombarda it was a residential area; now over 20 galleries are here. It was a catalyst as design shops and hotels have also begun to appear. During the year galleries co-ordinate to open shows on the same day so visitors can see many new works in one go.

#### What do you like most about Porto?

It's small in scale; I go everywhere on foot. It's safe and people are friendly. It is attracting more visitors and creative types; culturally it's blossoming.

[galeriafernandosantos.com](http://galeriafernandosantos.com)

### Sophisticated dinner

#### Vinum

Set on a hill on the Douro's south bank, Vinum's dining room, which includes a tapas bar, is part of the 19th-century cellar in which producer Graham's ports are aged in oak casks. Patrons get great views of downtown Porto while they tuck into grilled alheira sausage.

[vinumatgrahams.com](http://vinumatgrahams.com)



THE  
DOURO  
IS STUNNING  
IN ANY SEASON,  
CLOUDED IN MIST  
OR GLEAMING IN  
THE SUMMER  
SUNSHINE



### Best view

#### Porto to Peso da Régua

The train isn't the only way to see the Douro at its best: you can drive down the N108 all the way from Porto to Peso da Régua in the heart of the Douro. Up until Entre-os-Rios the views are nothing to write home about but the 70-odd kilometres between there and Régua offer spectacular vistas down the valley.



### Must-visit

#### Ervamoira winery

A visit to the Ervamoira winery at the furthest edge of the Douro region, less than 20km from the border with Spain, is an absolute must. Sónia Teixeira (pictured), the winery's only tour guide, picks visitors up in the impossibly sleepy hamlet of Muxagata, from which it is another 8km drive through rocky scrubland in her hardy 4x4.

The tour takes visitors round the vineyard – home to 450,000 vines – and up a steep hill for a view back over the estate, concluding with a tasting of Ramos Pinto tawny (barrel-aged) port.

[ramospinto.pt](#)



### Must-try

#### Port Lodge at Graham's in Vila Nova de Gaia

Once you've spent a few days in the Douro Valley, visiting *quintas* and seeing how port wine starts its life, there is only one way to conclude your visit. Return to Porto by boat along the route taken for centuries by the *barcos rabelos*: the wooden vessels that were traditionally used to take wine from the vineyards to the port cellars in the coastal city.

Across the river estuary from Porto is Vila Nova de Gaia, the home of all the large wine lodges. Most organise wine tastings and tours but undoubtedly the best one to visit is Graham's, which is a little removed from the rest and has recently undergone a €2.5m refurbishment.

[grahams-port.com](#)

