

THE VERSAILLES FOUNDATION, INC.

CLAUDE MONET-GIVERNY

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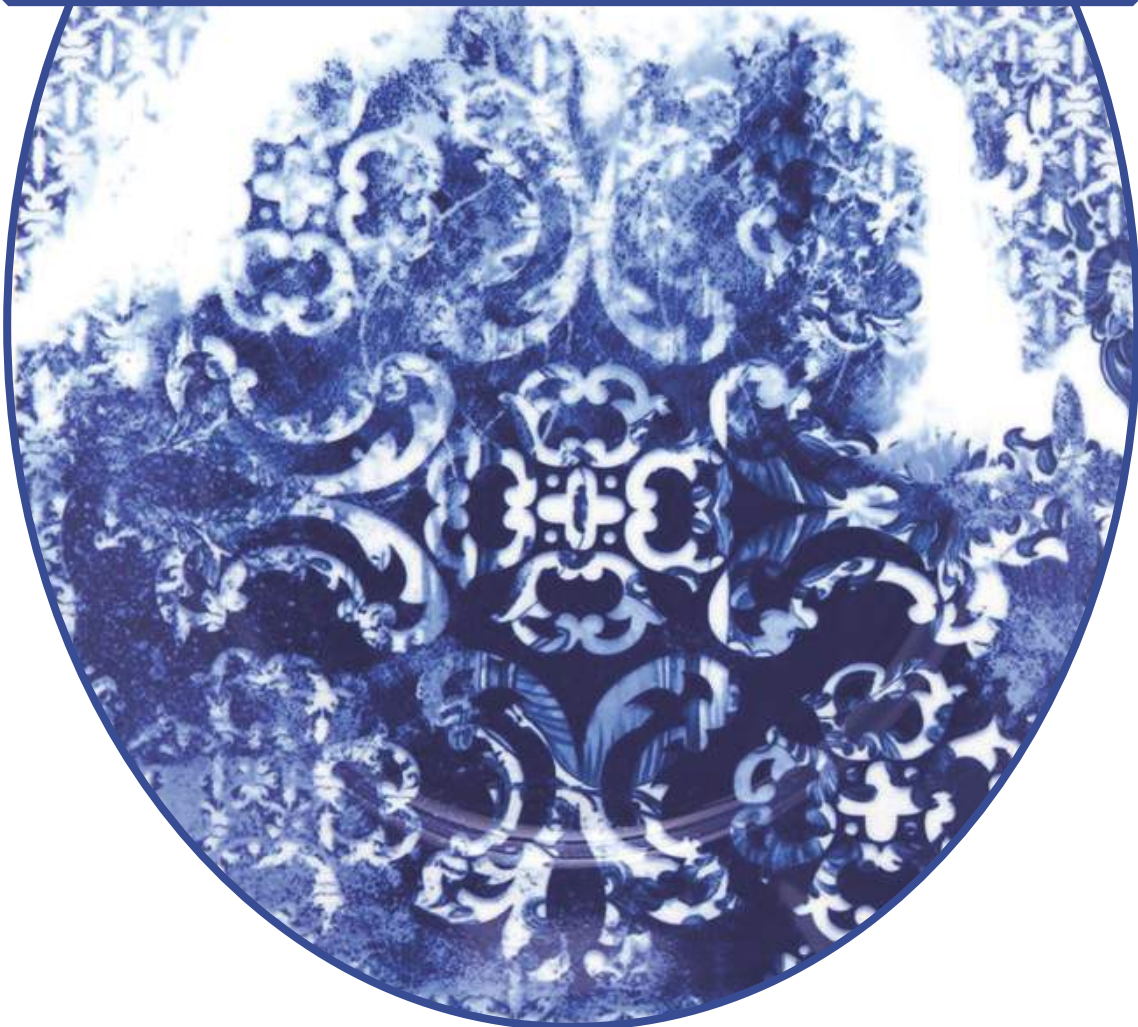
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“THE 2019 ROYAL

POR TU GAL

ESCAPADE II”



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

THE VERSAILLES FOUNDATION, INC./CLAUDE MONET-GIVERNY
“2019 Royal Portuguese Escapade II”

PROGRAM SKETCH:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST:

Welcome to Northern Portugal’s Oporto, ancient Rome’s Portus Cale. Porto, in the XVth Century was one of the Royal Family’s residences. You will be met individually at the airport by car and driver. Our hotel is of course a former XVIIIth Century Monastery tout à fait upscale with every amenity.

Your room looks onto a grandiose collage of architectural styles from Neoclassical to French “Beaux-Arts”.

Noon to Three O’Clock: A welcome of nibbles & bubbles!

As of Five O’Clock we will board our vintage reserved Tram for our “Electrico” tour of the city before dinner.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND:

We will reach by Minibus our designated Port of Call. We embark on our chartered English Navy Yachts for a leisurely day cruise of the Upper Douro River (River of Gold).

We will navigate a lock heading towards lunch at a remote, family owned Grand Estate, by Appointment Only. There we will drink the family’s wines, grown in the surrounding farm vineyards and we will sample the finest Port. We return on the late side for an evening of... Room Service.



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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD:

We visit by Tuk Tuk and on foot the center of Oporto (Porto). This is the birthplace (1394) of Prince Henry the Navigator. The son of King John I and Philippa of Lancaster. He is known for having sponsored the expeditions discovering Africa’s West Coast, Madeira and the Azores. He is truly the originator of the Age of Discovery and responsible for the North African Slave Trade to the Algarve.

Madame Leal is our Guide Extraordinaire and our Foundation Chargé d’Affaires, Mr. Rhodes, our Photographer Extraordinaire.

Our lunch destination is by round trip water taxi. The evening sees us taking a Funicular down to under the bridge designed by Gustave Eiffel (1877) with dinner on the wharf.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH:

Minibus departure for the “Bom Jesus do Monte” XVIIIth Century Sanctuary. We have an affinity for Funiculars, n’est-ce-pas and this one built in 1880 is a hydraulic one at that. It is the worlds oldest one moved by water counter balancing. So up we go and once on the “Monte”; down the pilgrims “Sacred Way” steps. Off to Braga for Lunch. The XIIth Century Cathedral reserves us a “petite” surprise. Then it’s Guimaraes “Cradle of Portugal”. The town is the birthplace of Alfonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, son of the French Nobleman Henri de Bourgogne and Teresa the daughter of Spain’s King of Castile & Léon. We alight at the XVth Century Palace of the Dukes of Bragança. Walk to the Medieval town center. Depart back to Porto. Time to pack as we leave the next day.



A light & late dinner around the corner at a very attractive Art Nouveau Café.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH:

We depart going south toward Coimbra. Stop off at canal strewn Aveiro to visit the beautiful Antigo Convento de Jesus which houses the elegant tomb of Portugal’s only Royal Princess & Saint. The XVth Century Princess Jeanne (Infanta Santa Joana). There is a sumptuous choir and her remarkable portrait. From Lunch in Aveiro we will stop off at Portugal’s Porcelain Factory: Vista Alegre together with the famous Bordallo Pinheiro ceramics. Most probably you will find something to tickle your fancy either for yourself or as a gift. If not in a buying mood the Vista Alegre museum with its giant kilns is there to greet you.



Check in to our XVIIIth Century Palace of a Hotel, the former home of Prince Pedro & Iñes de Castro. Portugal’s tragic Romeo & Juliet. This lovely luxury Hotel has an outdoor pool, spa, golf course, gardens and a very good dining room.
Dinner in our romantic Hotel.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH:

To Coimbra we go. Famous for its current & handsome University, settled there since 1537. You will hear much talk about the European



free-tailed bats who are considered “honorary librarians” but more on that subject whilst there...

Lunch is smack opposite the Cathedral with a digestive climb down to the main street by the aptly named “Rua do Quebra Costas” (The street that broke my back).

Dinner is at a very informal Bistro, followed by a late night pop by to watch a performance of Fado. This is Portugal’s unique, inherent, melancholic song accompanied on the “viola baxo”.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH:

We return briefly to Coimbra for a morning visit of the splendid Gothic-Manuelin Cloister before leaving for lunch chez my adorable and distinguished friends Mr. & Mrs. Antonio de Bourbon Maghalaes e Menendes. They have a charming country farm full of family history, beautiful Portuguese antiques and home cook. Then it's Conimbriga, a village occupied by the Romans in the late 1st Century AD. It is known for the largest private villa ever built in all of Occidental Rome and was owned by an ostentatious Nouveau Riche Roman of the time. Why, he even had his own thermal baths for hot, tepid and cold water! The forbearer of today's McMansion. That night we will squeeze into a taverna for Dinner. Thank Heavens for the Sangria!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH:

Morning at leisure, giving you time to pack for next day departure.

Lunch in the Buçaco Forest, a national landmark and park teeming with oak, cedar, palm trees, cypress, Chilean pine, eucalyptus, monkey puzzle, chestnut, sequoias, etc...

The Palace was commissioned by King Charles I of Portugal (1888-1907) as a Royal retreat. It is a theatrical rendition of every possible Manueline architectural interpretation you could think of. Wow.

After lunch we will stroll through the park to a fountain born in a Grotto, which cascades down 144 mossy steps in a sea of ferns. On our way back we should stop at the little spa town of Luso to fill our bottles with Portugal's most famous water. Radioactive and hypotonic, it is said to treat most every ailment.

We dine at the “Bar Gastronomique” of our Hotel.



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH:

Departure for the Alcobaça stately XIIth Century Cistercian Monastery on our way to Lisbon.

We stop off at Alcobaça for the out of the ordinary invitation to join His Royal Highness Dom Duarte, The Duke of Bragança, celebrating a High Mass for the Military Order of Saint Michael of the Wing. His Royal Highness is the pretender to the Portuguese Throne and as Head of it's former Royal House, he is the Order's Grand Master. The Knights attending are all members of the Order based on merit alone. They form what is called a Royal Brotherhood. After the service we will join His Royal Highness and the Knights for lunch. Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke & Duchess of Bragança honored and helped our Foundation immeasurably. I am personally devoted to them and their family.

N.B: Saint Michael, the Archangel is considered the patron of the military. He was adopted as the Patron of our Airborne Paratroopers in World War II.

We proceed to Lisbon for an evening check-in to our XIXth Century luxurious Lisbon Palace Hotel. Rooms have river Tagus, pool and garden views from which we will all enjoy a night of... Room Service!



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH:

Morning of leisure in the Palace gardens, outdoor & indoor pools, spa, followed by lunch in Lisbon and... Three Options:
I) Shopping Escapade.
II) Spend Part of the afternoon with Madame Leal in one of the best museums in Portugal. There you will find the finest Portuguese furniture, Decorative Arts from the XIIth to the XIXth Century, XVIth Century Japanese Lacquer screens depicting the

Portuguese arriving on the islands of Tanegashima & Japan. The Portuguese collection of Primitive XVIth Century Paintings, etc...

III) From our Lisbon lunch restaurant just walk up the street to explore the most appealing center of Lisbon with yours truly.

Return to Hotel for our Farewell Dinner in the Belém Room.



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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST:

Morning Departures.
You'll be taken to the airport by individual car and driver.

Au revoir
Godspeed!

We hope our preliminary sketch of a Program lives up to at least some of
your expectations?!

**Please note: Our group numbers Eighteen (18). We are currently in the
process of booking the accommodations and travel arrangements.**

Your Grateful
Barbara de Portago!

