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1 Porto, Portugal

by Tanvi Chheda

DAZZLING BY DESIGN

At the mouth of the Douro River, the medieval city of Porto, Portugal, is undergoing an architectural renaissance. Old World icons, such as the baroque Torre dos Clérigos bell tower that helped the city earn UNESCO status in 1996, contrast with contemporary buildings by Pritzker Prize-winning architects Álvaro Siza Vieira and Eduardo Souto de Moura. New boutiques are transforming historic streets, and upscale hotels are bringing former palaces and row houses back to life.



PORT OF CALL

The wine bar Vinologia: La Maison des Porto specializes in the city's namesake port. Drop by the cozy tasting room to sample one of 200 bottles, mostly from regional small-batch producers.

Rua de São João 46, 351/938-057-340, laimaiondesporto.com



Goods Gallery

A retro-inspired shop in Porto's city center. A Vida Portuguesa carries everyday items—handcrafted Claus Porto soaps, Couto toothpaste, Emilio Braga notebooks—displayed like museum artifacts.

Rua Galeria de Paris 20, first floor, 351/222-022-105, avidaportuguesa.com



ARCHITECTURAL FANTASY

A blend of neo-Gothic and art nouveau, the enchanting Livraria Lello bookshop dates to 1906 and is rumored to have inspired J.K. Rowling's Hogwarts in *Harry Potter*.
Rua das Carmelitas 144, 351/222-002-037

Old-Meets-New Hotels

1. Book a suite overlooking old town's main thoroughfare at the Palácio das Cardosas, converted from an 18th-century mansion.
351/220-035-600, ichotelsgroup.com

2. The Yeatman offers 82 rooms, each decorated by a different wine producer.
351/220-133-100, the-yeatman-hotel.com

3. The six-room Casa do Conto is a concrete-and-steel take on an old Porto row house.
351/222-060-340, casadoconto.com

"There is a special almond liqueur called *amarguinha*. It's a delicious alternative to port wine."

—Kristin Zbell, AFAR.com