

THE PROWL

Made in Portugal

Sure, it's tops for port, but **Porto**, the cozy town in northern Portugal's Douro River Valley, takes locavorism beyond the glass. A guide to shopping for the best native arts and crafts—pre- or post-aperitif, of course.

A warning as you begin your shopping jaunt: Port is twice as strong as white wine, and Porto's many wineries will serve you a glass or two for free. So if the idea of tipsy impulse buying makes you want to hide your AmEx, get the serious shopping in early.

Begin your browsing at the paradigm of Porto shopping, **A Vida Portuguesa**. On the second floor of an 1888 fabric store, it's packed with all the retro-flavored local souvenirs you never knew you needed, like 1950s-inflected toys, textiles, and toiletries, and woven puchandos bags made in the northern town of Viana do Castelo (Rua Galeria de Paris 20). Next, pop into **Portosigns**, a set of two stores—called Tradi-

good stuff, treat yourself to tea at the Zen-like **Rota do Chá**, which sells strong Hysson green and classic orange-pekoee black grown on Europe's only tea plantations, in Portugal's Azores archipelago (Rua de Miguel Bombarda 457). Pause at **No Feminino Com**, a café, bookshop, and boutique focused on feminine traditions: weaving, handcrafted bracelets, and the preparation of desserts like leite creme queimado, a sort of crème brûlée (Praça Carlos Alberto 89). By now, you'll be inspired by all the artistry, so buy some Portuguese wool with which to knit your own scarf at **Retrosaria das Flores**, which offers monthly workshops in embroidery, crochet, and tricôt and sells bags made of chita alcobaça, a fabric printed with birds, flowers, and fruit (Rua das Flores 104). Afterward, you might want to scoop up a few more things—wooden bowls, carved figurines, and spill-shaped porcelain plates—at **Galo Louco** (Rua Ferreira Borges 57).

Then, stop shopping and start drinking: **La Maison des Porto** has 200 open bottles to taste before you decide on the perfect vintage to take home—the shop owner's favorites are Quinta do Vallado's complex 20-year-old Tawny and Quinta da Romaneiras anise-rich Vintage 1984 (Rua de São João 46). Whip up at the **InterContinental Porto**, in the eighteenth-century Palácio das Cardosas, where you can dine on salt-cured codfish and sleep in one of 105 balconied, Deco-style rooms (351-22-0035600, doubles from \$240, entrées from \$27).



Portosigns' cork-and-leather weekend (\$160).



Embroidered hankie from Retrosaria das Flores (\$59).



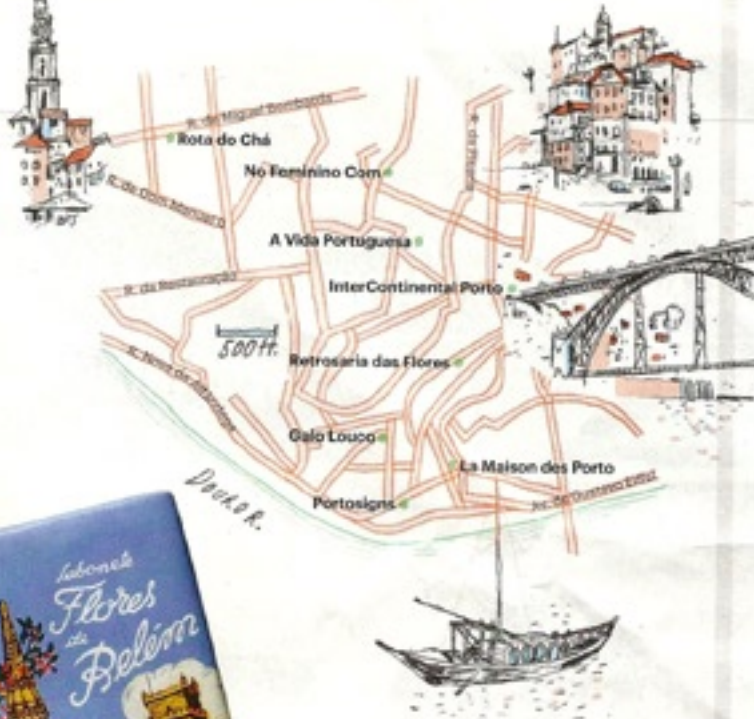
Galo Louco's wooden salad bowl (\$40).

PORTO'S PERFUME The rose-scented soaps at A Vida Portuguesa are made in the Confiança perfume factory, founded in nearby Braga in 1894.



Downtown Porto's shops and sites are accessible by tram.

tion and innovation—in the riverfront Ribeira district. The cheery shops contain cork bags, hats and ties, and colorful fired-clay statuettes by Barcelos-based artist Conceição Espateiro (Rua da Alfândega 17 and Rua Infante D. Henrique 71). Once you've gotten some



FTI

New Yorkers have a new place to soak up the sun in Long Island's most hipster-cool town this summer: The **Montauk Beach House** has 33 lofty guest rooms with cast-iron beds, a cute little café, and a half-acre European-style beach club (631-668-1221; doubles from \$495).