

12 Seaside riad, Olhão

A leading (if reclusive) Portuguese architect and his family run **Convento**, a very sexy riad-style, nine-bedroom ex-convent house hidden in the medina of this charming, salty fishing town. After the most beautiful breakfast the eastern Algarve can offer, ferries and water taxis are ready to take you to the glorious island beaches of Culatra and Armona. There's a rooftop pool, two shady terraces, a library, and dreamy, airy bedrooms in angelic white with bathrooms fitted out in local marble.

. Doubles from €100 B&B, +351 912 463 233, conventoolhao.com

RURAL

13 Go wild, Montesinho

This forested Trás-os-Montes hamlet is in excellent wild walking, biking and birdwatching country, a few miles from the northern Spanish border. Sally Godward and Robert van der Vliet converted their sturdy house, **A Lagosta Perdida**, into a welcoming B&B that serves the breakfasts of champions and convivial three-course country dinners (€15 including wine and coffee). The hotel's name means The Lost Lobster. There are no lobsters in Montesinho, or anywhere near it.

. Doubles from €95, +351 273 919 031, lagostaperdida.com

14 Old Portugal, Ponte de Lima

Casa De Pomarchão is a 15th-century baronial home that was enlarged in 1775 in the curly, knobbly Pombaline style. There are seven rooms and apartments, all furnished in the classic north Portuguese fashion - think lots of dark polished wood. There's a private chapel, a swimming pool in the old well-fed cistern, and breakfasts featuring home-baked cakes. It's a 30-minute saunter to gracious, riverside Ponte de Lima, reputedly Portugal's oldest village.

. Doubles from €75 B&B, +351 963 807 180, casadepomarchao.com

15 Vineyard manor, Viano do Castelo

Bouça d'Arques is a 300-year-old manor house surrounded by vineyards that's been enlarged with a few bold, tasteful architectural additions in iron, glass and concrete. On the estate there are seven sweet letting houses, all but one with private terraces. There's a chlorine-free eco-pool, and breakfasts (with very beautiful homemade jams, local cheeses and farm-cured meats) are delivered to your house. Bouça d'Arques is close to Viana do Castelo, and on the edge of a magical small forest. The beaches of Afife, Carreço and Pâço are 15 minutes' drive away.

. Doubles from €80 B&B, +351 968 044 992, boucadarques.com

16 Douro gem, Amarante

A crenellated, isolated mini-manor house full of atmosphere and antiques, **Casa Levada** is now run as a B&B by Maria and Luis Mota, he the great nephew of poet Teixeira de Pascoaes, who used to summer here. They're a charming couple who often join guests for meals and conversation (dinner supplement €20 including wine). Forty miles inland from Porto, the hotel features massive stone lintels, wooden shutters, polished wood floors and painted and panelled wooden ceilings. It's toasty warm thanks to a roaring fire in winter, and naturally cool throughout in summer. This is a great base from which to explore the Douro.

. Doubles from €75 B&B, +351 226 181 516, casalevada.com

17 Wine tasting, Penafiel

The **Solar Egas Moniz** calls itself a "charming hotel". Charming hotel? Yes, actually. Chic but not twee, the hotel is 30 minutes from Porto, close to the grandly be-churched town of Penafiel. Egas Moniz was tutor to Portugal's first king, and the hotel runs tutored wine tastings

in the wonderful *enoteca* where substantial *petiscos* (snacks) like *bacalhão* gratin are served to soak up the glasses you forget to spit. The emphasis is on wellbeing and wine - for many of us, the same thing.

.Doubles from €99, + 351 962 168 254, solaregasmoniz.com

18 Hilltop hamlet, Castelo Rodrigo

Ana Berliner and António Monteiro were Lisbon biologists who fell in love with this lonely historic hilltop village deep in the Parque Arqueológico do Vale do Côa, near where the Douro reaches the Spanish border. At **Casa da Cisterna** they've created 11 sweet rooms from two village houses and turned the ancient cistern that once supplied the village's water into a swimming pool with panoramic country views. They'll gladly show you their project to protect the endangered Miranda donkey or will pack you a huge picnic to accompany you to the park's extraordinary cave paintings.

.Doubles from €65 B&B, +351 271 313 515, wonderful.land/cisterna

19 High life, Serra da Estrela

The Serra da Estrela is the only part of Portugal high enough (up to 2,000 metres) to regularly receive snow and **Casa das Penhas Douradas**, a modern chalet-style hotel speaks to those who love mountains and clean air, walking trails and spa treatments. They take their food seriously here, and offer cooking courses, cheffy (in a good way) dinners - star chef Luis Baena is the consultant - and gourmet picnics. The same family owns the Burel historical woollen felt factory close by in the beautiful stone village of Manteigas.

.Doubles from €110 B&B, +351 275 981 045, casadaspenhasdouradas.pt

20 Wine and wildlife, Alentejo

On the award-winning wine estate of **Herdade de Sobroso**, deep in the southern countryside of the Beja district, there are six simple rooms in the farmhouse and four family-friendly apartments in the annexe. Decor is classy and serene - like the wines produced here. There's a pool, a small lake with canoes, and nearby, lake Alqueva is Portugal's largest with 1,100km of shore to explore. Chef Josefa is renowned for her wild duck rice (lunches and dinners, €26).

.Doubles from €125 B&B, +351 961 732 958, herdadedosobroso.pt

21 Birdlife and watersports, Alentejo

Nature expert Frank McClintock came here in 1987, fell in love with the place and its peace, and built **Quinta do Barranco da Estrada**, a charming nine-room hideout, 45 miles north of Portimão. He's a leading birdwatching guide but this is also a wonderful place for non-twitchers. Borrow canoes, a dinghy or stand-up paddleboards from the floating jetty, or hang out in the sauna or the gardens. Lunch is €15, dinner €22.50 plus drinks.

.Doubles from €100 B&B, +351 283 933 065, paradise-in-portugal.com

22 Agriturismo, Monchique

New in 2015, **Vinha do Gaiao** is an organic agriturismo on the southern slopes of the Serra de Monchique, within easy striking distance of the western Algarve's beaches and sights. Six chic doubles, all but one with room for an extra bed, are tacked onto an old farmstead. Design is sensitive, modern and minimal, and most rooms have distant sea views. The quinta runs courses in pastry baking, organic farming and *macramé* (making clothes using knotting instead of knitting). The spa at eccentric Portmerion-like Termas de Monchique (€20 for as long as you like in the pool, sauna and steam, including a mad 15-minute hydro-massage) is a 10-minute drive away.

.Doubles from €75 B&B, +351 282 912 600, vinhadogaio.com

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