

STOCKENBRIDGE

BREAKS



Casa Velha do Palheiro, Madeira

Saturday 14th September - Saturday 21st September 2019

A luxury Autumn Bridge week with the Stockens in a 5-star hotel with golf course on the beautiful subtropical island of Madeira

from £1638pp* including: * with 10% Loyalty Discount

7 nights' stay in this elegant 5-star Relais and Chateaux hotel

Full board every day including:

- reception with aperitif and canapés on the first evening
- refreshments available during bridge play
- three-course dinner in the restaurant with 1/2 bottle per person of selected wines

Unlimited access to the hotel's spa and sauna

Special green fee rates for the hotel's Championship Golf Course

Transfers from Funchal Airport for selected flights

All bridge tuition and course notes

Very special bridge holidays

Madeira

The island of Madeira is a green subtropical paradise of volcanic origin with a year-round summer climate. With its beautiful parks and gardens full of exotic flowers and varied wildlife, stunning coastal and mountain walks and the historic capital of Funchal, Madeira has rightfully been crowned best island destination in the world at the 2016 and 2017 World Travel Awards.

Casa Velha do Palheiro

Casa Velha was originally a hunting lodge for the Count of Carvalhal. In 1885, the estate was acquired by the Blandy family, synonymous with the Madeira wine trade, to whom it still belongs. Now an elegant 5-star luxury hotel, it forms part of the prestigious Relais and Chateaux hotel group.

Filled with sunlight and antiques, fresh flowers and floral chintzes, this peaceful hotel is beautifully preserved and brimming with country house charm. The attractive, cream coloured building with a terracotta-tiled roof has wisteria rambling along balconies and framing doorways which open out onto one of Madeira's most stunning gardens.



Within the extensive Palheiro grounds, there is an outdoor swimming pool and in the spa, an indoor heated pool with sauna, steam bath and a fitness room. There is also tennis, croquet, badminton and billiards. A private motor yacht is available for hire to go dolphin or whale watching or deep sea fishing. There are privileged tee offs at the Palheiro championship golf course from the 'Halfway House', a short stroll from the hotel gates.

Casa Velha Restaurant

Considered one of the best restaurants in Madeira with impeccable service, the menu of modern classic dishes is made from the best seasonal and locally produced ingredients, including plenty of freshly-caught seafood.

MENU at CASA VELHA

Shrimp salad with exotic fruits, passion fruit vinaigrette

Marinated and smoked salmon tartare, avocado guacamole and beetroot vinaigrette

Beef carpaccio, carrot served three ways, Enoki pickle

Cream of broccoli soup with smoked cod sliver

Grilled beef entrecôte flavoured in the “espetada” style, fried polenta with cabbage

Roast scorpion fish, mushrooms with basil, grilled courgette cannelloni

Pork cheeks, red cabbage, apple, chourizo jampolenta with stewed pork and sausage

Seabream, stir fried vegetables, gnocchi with cuttlefish ink

Veal fillet, mushrooms and spinach with cream, jus with foie gras and aged vinegar

Mandarin parfait with a light lemon cream and raspberry jelly

Warm chocolate fondant with lime and ginger sorbet

Peanuts and mascarpone parfait

Selection of homemade ice creams and sorbets or Portuguese cheeses



Please Note

This is a sample menu and will vary according to the season and availability of produce. Dinner will be accompanied by half a bottle of house wine per person. There will be a choice, ordered in advance. Breakfast will be a fabulous buffet selection including cooked eggs, freshly squeezed juices, homemade breads and jams. Lunch will be a simple but delicious main course followed by dessert. Any dietary requirements can be catered for.

Accommodation

The bedrooms are situated in two separate low lying wings, close to the hotel itself, and look onto the lush gardens. These two-tiered buildings are very much in keeping with the country house style of the original house. The interior bedroom decor has deep carpets, floral fabrics and antique furniture including dressing tables and hardwood polished bed heads.

The en-suite luxurious bathrooms are beautifully tiled in white, inset with hand painted floral details. All rooms come with free wifi, cable television, telephone, safe, minibar, slippers, bathrobes, bathroom products and a welcome gift. Please contact us for further details on rooms and accessibility.

Bedrooms are available from 2pm and check out is 12pm.

Please note that there is limited availability for single occupancy.



Standard Rooms (Garden Wing) ♥

Located in the garden wing, adjacent to the house with views over the garden. Twin or double, bath with shower over. Ground or 1st floor. 28m².



Superior Rooms (Golf Wing) ♠

Located in the golf wing, near house with views over the garden. Twin or double, bath with shower over, separate shower. Ground or 1st floor. 32m²

PRICES (*per person, based on 2 sharing)	Standard rooms ♥	Superior rooms ♠
Full Price*	£1820	£1990
With 10% loyalty discount*	£1638	£1791
Single occupancy	£2150	£2270
Single occupancy with discount	£1935	£2043

Bridge with Zeb & Claudia

Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game adapted to your level.



Claudia – Zeb’s sister – will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday and, as a keen and experienced bridge player herself, she will also be supervising bridge sessions. The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching, supervised play and some duplicate – all played in a fun and friendly environment. The tuition sessions will use CompassCards (*set deals*) and a fun topic tailored to the group.



The other sessions will be supervised play or some form of duplicate or teams, with prizes at the end of the stay. All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play although we can only accommodate complete beginners if booked as a group of four. Water, tea and coffee will be available during play. Non-bridge playing partners are of course welcome.

It is important to stress that our holidays are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate every night. Our ethos is that bridge should be a friendly and social game where you can meet like-minded people, and our holidays reflect that.

No partner is needed on a StockenBridge holiday.

Bridge Schedule

Every Day

Bridge tuition

10am – 12.30pm

Teams or duplicate

5.15pm - 7.30pm

After dinner supervised bridge or Chicago



Excursions and things to do on the island

We will be organising some optional excursions and will contact you nearer the time with details and prices to book these trips in advance:

1. Guided walk and picnic

Madeira's many levada walks (*alongside ancient irrigation canals*) are an amazing way to see the island and we plan to organise a guided walk with a picnic.



2. Blandy's Wine Lodge

The Blandy family name is synonymous with the history of Madeira wine, and a visit to the Blandy cellars, dating back to 1811, is the best way to explore—and get a taste of—this unique wine's rich past.



3. Whale and dolphin boat trip

This boat excursion will sail along the beautiful Madeiran coastline to spot whales and dolphins. After lunch in Funchal, visit the famous Monte Palace Tropical gardens via the cable car.



Golf

Adjacent to the hotel, Palheiro Golf is one of Europe's most beautiful golf courses. This 18-hole par 72 championship golf course has magnificent views overlooking Funchal Bay. It passes through a verdant environment of maritime pine and botanical woodland, lined with lush, sub-tropical vegetation. 30% discount on green fees for hotel guests.



Palheiro Spa

The hotel has a fabulous spa with free access to the heated pool, sauna, steam room, fitness area and bar. A range of treatments can be booked.



Palheiro Gardens

The gated Palheiro Gardens, famous for their camellias, are open to the public and are a year-round place of pilgrimage for flower lovers offering great horticultural interest and a peaceful wildlife haven full of beauty and contrast. There is direct access and free unlimited entrance for hotel residents.



In and around the hotel

There are a number of marked walking trails through the hotel's estate and beyond.

There is an all-weather tennis court, croquet lawn, badminton court and games room.

The lively capital of Funchal with its busy marina, enticing shops and interesting historical buildings is only 20 minutes away (*free scheduled shuttle service from hotel*).

Travel Details

Madeira's airport, Funchal (*11 miles away - transfer time approx 20 minutes*) is served by many airlines from the UK including British Airways and Easyjet. We will include transfers from Funchal airport for selected flights to fit in with checking in and out, or for a minimum of 6 guests on a flight. Otherwise airport transfers cost between 7€ and 25€ per person each way depending on the number of guests. Please contact us for full details of flights and transfers.

Alternatively you may prefer to hire a car through one of the many car hire companies at Funchal Airport to give you more flexibility during your stay.
