

# STOCKENBRIDGE

BREAKS



## Casa da Calcada, Amarante, North Portugal

Saturday 1st September — Saturday 8th September 2018

A luxury Autumn Bridge break in a fabulous 5-star hotel with your hosts Zebedee and Claudia Stocken.

*Prices from £1494\*<sub>(pp)</sub> including:*

*\*with 10% loyalty discount*

- 7 nights' stay in this luxurious 5-star hotel
- Full board at the hotel's Michelin starred restaurant including:
  - breakfast and buffet lunch
  - three course dinner with wine
- Refreshments available during Bridge play
- Reception with aperitif and canapés on the first evening
- Transfers from Porto Airport for selected flights
- All Bridge tuition, course notes and prizes

*Very special bridge holidays*

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## Casa da Calcada

Hotel Casa da Calcada is a luxurious 5-star hotel, situated on the banks of the River Tamega in the pretty town of Amarante. This restored 16th century palace maintains its original Baroque style with its charming furniture, furnishings and ornamental touches, giving the feel of a family home coupled with high levels of comfort and service.



The hotel is privately-owned and a member of the prestigious hotel group 'Relais and Chateaux' - an exclusive collection of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants worldwide. The hotel also has attractive and peaceful gardens with a swimming pool enjoying views over the town of Amarante.

Amarante (*right - the hotel is on the right of the photo*) is perfectly placed in rolling hills, not far from the historic towns of Porto, Guimaraes and Braga and near two important wine regions. This pretty and bustling riverside town is



one of the gems of northern Portugal featuring rows of 17th-century mansions with brightly painted wooden balconies lining narrow cobbled streets.

## Largo do Paço

Casa da Calcada's Largo do Paço Restaurant is justly renowned and has been awarded a Michelin star, the only one in North Portugal. It regularly wins international and Portuguese awards for its modern, innovative cuisine that is steeped in local gastronomic traditions and ingredients, and has many excellent reviews from satisfied diners. Under head chef, Tiago Bonito, you can expect the freshest of ingredients, sourced locally according to the season and all presented in the most beautiful and appetising manner.

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## *MENU at LARGO do PACA*

*Goat's cheese gratin with sweet figs, Iberian lettuce, walnuts & port wine vinaigrette*  
*Salmon carpaccio with sour cream and spring onion, capers and mixed lettuce*  
*Locally produced 'black pig' ham with cottage cheese panacotta & pumpkin chutney*  
*Squid carpaccio with extra virgin olive oil, creamed roasted peppers & olive tapenade*  
*Pumpkin velouté with buttons onions & sour cream*

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*Veal Scallops with wild mushrooms, potato gratin & vegetables*  
*Fish of the day with rice cooked with peppers & coriander*  
*Bisaro pork confit with red wine sauce, carrot puree, vanilla & vegetables*  
*Duck thigh confit with herbs, rosti potato & vegetables*  
*Asparagus on a creamy risotto with parmesan cheese*

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*Three chocolate parfait with strawberry ice cream & passion fruit coulis*  
*Mascarpone & amaretto tiramasu with salted wild fruits*  
*Vanilla panacotta with raspberry sauce & Liquor Beirão ice cream*  
*Apple pie with vanilla ice cream & caramel sauce*  
*Carrot cake, tart stuffed with lemon cream & tangerine sorbet*



### Please Note

Dinner will be accompanied by half a bottle of house wine per person.  
This is a sample menu and will vary according to the season and availability of produce.  
Dinner will be a set menu with a choice of two dishes for the main course (meat or fish), ordered in advance. Any dietary requirements can be catered for.  
Breakfast and lunch will be buffet with a selection of hot and cold dishes.

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## Accommodation

The 30 bedrooms and suites are spread out over 4 floors and designed in a classic and elegant style, all with an en-suite marble bathroom. Rooms are all soundproof and come with air conditioning, satellite television, telephone, minibar, bathrobes, slippers, toiletries and complimentary high speed wifi. Some rooms have an extra bed. Most of the bathrooms have a bath with a shower over, though there are three bathrooms with a shower, including one adapted for guests with reduced mobility.



High quality mattresses, luxurious linen and soft fluffy towels ensure a restful and inviting stay. The hotel has a lift serving all floors and there is a ramp to access the garden, swimming pool and bridge room (*on the 4th floor and behind the hotel*). Please contact us for further details on room accessibility or about the bedrooms, bathrooms or the hotel in general.

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

Executive rooms	♣	approx 20m2 with a view to the rear of the hotel. Double or twin.
Luxury rooms	♦	approx 25m2 with a view over the river and town. Double or twin.
Luxury superior rooms	♥	approx 30m2 with a fabulous view over the river and town. Balcony. Double or twin.
Executive suites	♠	approx 40m2 with a fabulous view over the river and town. Separate sitting room. Double only.
Presidential suite	NT	approx 80m2 with a large sitting room and two bathrooms. Balcony with majestic view over the river and town. Double. Best room in hotel!

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## Excursions and things to do in the area

We plan to organise two optional excursions during your stay. We will contact you nearer the time with the exact details and prices, and you will then be able to book these trips in advance.



### **Day trip to Porto**

A fabulous excursion to this thriving and vibrant trading city features a tour of the important historic monuments of the city, a cruise along the Douro River and a visit and tasting at one of the famous Port Wine Cellars.



### **Day trip to the Minho region**

Visit Guimares, a UNESCO World Heritage site with its impressive castle and charming medieval centre with artisanal shops and cafes. Then on to Braga with grand 18th century houses, pretty gardens and churches including the oldest cathedral in the country, before finishing at the Temple of Bom Jesus, Portugal's most spectacular religious sanctuary.



### **Golf**

There are various excellent courses within an hour's reach of the hotel including nearby Amarante golf course (*right*) which is varied and challenging and Oporto golf course, founded by British port shippers in 1890, and the oldest in the Iberian peninsula, laid out on sand dunes by the Atlantic.



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## **From the hotel**

Amarante itself has plenty to offer with its twice-weekly market and boutique shops. From the hotel gates, cross over the striking arched bridge, Ponte Sao Goncalo, to the main square and pretty cloistered church, and watch the world go by from one of the many riverside cafes. On our last visit we organised a group outing on pedalos (*see below*) - a perfect way to see the sights of the town from the river and to get to know everyone. Alternatively, chill out in the gardens, take a dip in the pool or enjoy a relaxing massage at the hotel.



## **Travel Details**

Porto airport is the nearest airport, with a transfer time of 40 minutes. We will be recommending a flight from London Gatwick with good timings and we will include airport transfers for anyone on this flight, or any other flights arriving and departing at a similar time. We will also include transfers for any flight subject to a minimum of six guests. Otherwise transfers cost from 25€ per person each way. Contact us for full details before booking your flights.

If you wish to hire a car, there is a good choice of car hire companies at Porto airport. The route to Amarante is straightforward and mainly on motorways.



**Hotel Casa da Calcada**, 6, Largo do Paco, 4600-017 Amarante, Portugal

Telephone: +351 255 410 830

website: [www.casadacalcada.com](http://www.casadacalcada.com)

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## 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 Compass Cards (*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. We will be playing bridge in the hotel’s large and light banqueting room, adjacent to the hotel and perfect for our group. We also have the option of separating the group if required. 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 ‘heads down’ 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.

## Bridge Schedule

### Every Day

Bridge tuition

10am – 12.30pm

Duplicate or supervised play

5.30pm - 7.30pm

After dinner supervised bridge or Chicago



<b>PRICES</b> (*per person, based on 2 sharing)					NT
Full Price*	£1660	£1770	£1880	£1990	£2100
With 10% loyalty discount*	£1494	£1593	£1692	£1791	£1890
Single occupancy	£1810	£1990	£2130	£2340	£2500
Single occupancy with discount	£1644	£1813	£1942	£2141	£2290

### Loyalty Discount

We are offering a 10% 'loyalty' discount on the holiday price for all previous StockenBridge Breaks guests, provided that the holiday is booked before the 31st January 2018.

If you would like to share a room with a friend, even if they are new to Stockenbridge, the discount will apply to them too.

### How to Book...

To book your holiday, please fill out the booking form - stating your room preferences - and either scan and email to [claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com](mailto:claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com) or post to the address at the bottom of the page, together with the deposit of £200 per person. The full payment will be due by May 31st 2018. See booking form for Terms and Conditions.

### Payment

- where possible an on-line transfer is preferable for a speedy transaction that is easy to track.

#### On-line Transfer:

Account name: 'Stockens Ltd'      Account Number: 27452468      Sort Code: 30-11-75

Please quote 'Portugal 18' or your invoice number if you have one

#### Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to 'Stockens Ltd'

#### Financial Protection

Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

#### For more details:

website: [www.stockenbridgebreaks.com](http://www.stockenbridgebreaks.com)

email: [zeb@stockenbridge.co.uk](mailto:zeb@stockenbridge.co.uk) or [claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com](mailto:claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com)

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