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ONCE A SUMMER HOLIDAY MAINSTAY, Portugal is quickly becoming a popular winter destination. It's one of the warmest European countries during the cold months and isn't overcrowded. Lisbon is the most obvious choice for your first landing. Replete with spectacular architecture, museums and ancient monuments, the Portuguese capital beckons art lovers, history buffs and casual travelers.

And while you're there, look no further than the iconic Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisboa for your stay. This grand dame of Portuguese hospitality has been attracting visitors since the 1930s, with its central location on Lisbon's chicest shopping street, Avenida da Liberdade. Imbued with contemporary grandeur, the property was recently refurbished by architectural firm Broadway Malyan.

Its crowning glory is the 270-square-meter Presidential Suite, bedecked with art from the Ricardo do Espírito Santo Silva Foundation and the works of Portuguese artist Milly Possoz. Not far behind is the Beatriz Costa Suite, spanning 77 square meters, sporting a balcony that offers splendid views of the Avenue and the Tagus River. This eclectic accommodation also comes with period furniture, framed photographs and jewelry boxes from the collection depicting the life and works of the eponymous actress.

Dine at Terraco, one of Lisbon's finest restaurants, now featuring the genius of Michelin-starred Chef Rui Paula, who combines traditional fare with fresh ingredients, such as the classic Clam Xerém, razor clams and sea bass. If you prefer seafood, head to Cervejaria Liberdade, where you can enjoy fresh fish, sushi and ceviche.





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Scintillating Sintra

NO PORTUGUESE VACATION WOULD BE complete without a sojourn in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sintra, a former royal retreat that's become a vacation hotspot for celebrities and A-listers. Get a glimpse of the region's luxury and tradition at the Tivoli Palácio de Seteais, a fascinating example of 18th-century neoclassical architecture.

In the early 19th century, the building was home to some of the most distinguished Portuguese families. Since 1953, it has functioned as a luxury hotel that combines oldworld charm and elegance with modern amenities and comfort. The hotel houses more

than 2,000 rare and stunning pieces of art and design, from paintings to tapestries, furniture to lighting.

The hotel's 30 lavish rooms feature unique interiors, including the Diplomatic Suite, which boasts 18th- and 19th-century decorations inspired by Queen Maria I, the 'Good Mother of Portugal'.

If that wasn't enough, the address has been graced by absolute legends, including mystery writer Agatha Christie, rockers David Bowie and Mick Jagger, and Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp. It doesn't get any better than this.

5 PIACES TO SEE IN SINTRA

by the prestigious piano-maker.

- L The Palácio Nacional da Pena
- 2. The Quinta da Regaleira
- 3. The Palácio Nacional de Sintra
- 1. The Castle of the Moors
- 5. The Pena Park

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