

Welcome, Catavino Tours

Portugal with Passion and Panache



Dear Friends,

Rebecca Recommends is proud to announce our representation of [Catavino Tours](#) (soon to be rebranded as Patamar Select) and the opportunity they present your clients for exclusive, personalized travel experiences in Portugal.

Since 2005, the experts at Catavino Tours have steeped themselves in the regions they represent on the Iberian Peninsula, Portugal in particular, with onward travel to Spain available upon request. Consistent exemplary reviews from past travelers and recognition within the upscale, luxury travel community speak to the dedication the team gives to nurturing relationships, making every moment count, and uncovering the very best of the destinations they so love.

[Download the Rebecca Recommends Client List](#)



Évora - Diana's Temple located in Alentejo.

How Catavino Tours Stands Out

Ryan and Gabriella Opaz moved to Iberia in the early 2000's and have been sharing their personal stories about Portugal's food, wine, and culture since that time. Over the years, the couple immersed themselves in culinary experiences and simple, off-the-beaten-path magical moments in tiny Iberian Peninsula towns, which ultimately led the way to a tour company that prides itself on outstanding travel. Iberia has become the Opaz's home, a community of winemakers, chefs, and local experts that they are extremely proud to call friends.

Ryan is the "wine guy" of Catavino, having spent over a decade touring, discovering, and speaking about the lifeblood of Iberia. Not your "average guide," his experiences, much like his personality, are dynamic, engaging, and unforgettable. Gabriella is known as the company's "Human Connector," maintaining special relationships with advisors and travelers. As an award-winning speaker, writer, and author, she has viscerally shared her passion for Portuguese food, wine, and culture on Catavino. The company's tour designers hail from Portugal, bringing insider knowledge and depth to the experiences they curate.



Benagil Cave in Lagoa, Algarve features a natural skylight and is only accessible by the sea.

The joy and pleasure that the Catavino team gets from crafting a personalized trip is unmatched - their ultimate goal is for travelers to want to come back. The dedicated team seeks out engaging, knowledgeable guides, exceptional lodging, authentic experiences, and outstanding food and wine, resulting in personally crafted, life-changing trips that inspire travelers to learn and love their destination. They are proud to call almost all of their partners' close friends and ensure that those they work with have sustainability at the forefront of their mission. There is no shortage of creative solutions to craft incredible experiences for your clients.



Douro Vineyards - a lovely vineyard in a stunning setting.

Recognizing that wine is such an ingrained part of the culture, there are opportunities to focus on vineyard visits and tastings, but Catavino goes above and beyond to not only tell the story of Portugal through the wine lens but also open travelers' eyes to new and unexpected experiences. With a diverse landscape, from the mainland to the Azores in the middle of the Atlantic, to Madeira off the coast of Africa, Portugal experiences are varied. Catavino takes that variety and makes it accessible to clients who may otherwise be overwhelmed or not know where to start on their trip.

Everything Catavino touches for travelers is tailor-made and created from scratch, offering a high-quality, relaxed, personable, detailed experience. The

team communicates with travel advisors in advance to discuss the unique interests or needs of a guest so that wherever possible, they can make the extras only they know exist happen. They also make a point to involve family wherever possible, surprising those who may automatically assume Portugal wouldn't make a kid-friendly vacation. The culture is exceptionally welcoming of young travelers. "Walk into any winery with a child," says Ryan, "and you'll probably have the winemaker pick them up in his great stained hands and give them a hug."

Inspiration

The best way to truly understand what Catavino Tours is capable of is to get a feel for some of the crafted experiences they can arrange. This is just a small taster of the possibilities that will be tailored when they understand your clients' personal preferences.



theLAB located on Porto's Rua do Bonjardim.

Catavino's Portugal

Visiting Catavino - theLab: This welcoming wine shop, tasting room, and event space is tucked away on Porto's Rua do Bonjardim, attracting local artists and featuring natural, organic, and low-intervention wines. It's an exemplary representation of the sustainable business model Catavino strives for, involving and benefiting the local community. The Lab is where founders Ryan and Gabriella host dinners, exclusive experiences, and concerts, and sell natural, sustainable, low-intervention wines and other products.

Dining Experiences: Food and wine are the lifeblood of a Catavino trip, and no place is more fruitful for foodies than in Portugal. Travelers may take part in a traditional cooking session with the Viscountess or a class with a Michelin-star chef, or even harvest meaty oysters from the sea. Of course, plenty of eating is involved, from handmade cheese to farm-raised meats to traditional desserts.



São Miguel Island - Fogo Lagoon, Azores.

The Azores: Within this stunning archipelago of hidden crater lakes, steaming hot springs, and gentle ocean swells, there are pineapple plantations, volcanic wines, and bubbling hot springs. Catavino guests may find themselves trekking the lunar landscape of the Capelinhos volcano, Whale watching on the open seas in a private charter, or climbing to the top of Mirador do Rei for a view of forest-clad cliffs and twin lakes.



Experience an unforgettable balloon ride leaving from the town of Coruche.

Alentejo: With the last unspoiled stretch of the Atlantic Ocean coast in all of southern Europe, Alentejo is that relatively hidden gem your savvy travelers are seeking. Catavino reveals cycling routes along the Rota Vincentina, horseback riding through the Serra de Grândola, hot-air ballooning over flower-strewn plains, and stargazing near Lake Alqueva, just to name a few special moments.

Port Wine Experiences: Of course, one cannot visit Portugal without tasting the legendary Port wine of the Douro Valley. It is here that Catavino guests can experience quaint wine bars serving rare Port, learn about Port with a Knight of the Port Wine Brotherhood, and even stay in gigantic, luxuriously outfitted Port wine barrels.



Tram 28 is a famous tram that takes riders on a 40-minute trip through historic Lisbon neighborhoods.

Lisbon: As enticing as the countryside, coastline, and beguiling vineyards may be, Catavino doesn't overlook Portugal's beloved Lisbon, one of Europe's most visually striking capitals. Straddling seven hills, the city's exceptional moments range from touring world-class museums to savoring personalized meals in a local's home, from sailing at sunset on a private yacht on the Tejo River to visiting a traditional fado house tucked into Alfama's Moorish alleyways. From farm-to-table dining in Sesimbra to signature sommelier sessions, The City of Light awaits.



Monsaraz Castle, a National Monument of Portugal where the view of Alqueva Dam is breathtaking.

Connect with Catavino Tours

From observing local artisans handcrafting flamenco guitars to dining with Portuguese families in their private estate, to staying in luxury boutique hotels deep within the mountains, the Catavino Tours experience is a sublime way to engage in the Iberian Peninsula. For an unrivaled, lovingly curated visit, please reach out. We'd love to put you in touch with the Catavino team.

For more information and an introduction to the Catavino Tours team, please reach out to us at vip@r-recommends.com and we'll connect you.

Fondly,

Rebecca

vip@r-recommends.com



Rebecca Recommends is a privately-owned company providing representation services in North America for more than 20 years.

