

Condé Nast Traveller

WIN
A FABULOUS
HOLIDAY IN
MAURITIUS

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2011 £3.95

THE HOT LIST 2011

65 great new hotels

Tuscany

Visit Italy's
glorious wineries

Authentic Algarve

TIBET

Train journey to
the roof of the world

Eurostar escapes

Stylish city breaks in Paris, Lille & Avignon



PORTUGAL VIDAGO PALACE

Trás-os-Montes

Vidago Palace is a resort hotel with *grande-dame* status. Anticipatory service. ➤

➤ quality materials and the handwork that crafted them are beyond compare. One hundred years old and designed as a royal palace, this vast salmon-pink *belle époque* masterpiece has just 70 bedrooms. The monumental hotel, recently reopened after a complete €50-million refurbishment, is almost hidden by the tall trees of the surrounding parkland and 18-hole championship golf course. This region of northern Portugal, Trás-os-Montes ('Beyond the Mountains'), an hour's drive from Oporto airport, is reputed to have the highest density of natural spas in Europe; perhaps not surprisingly, the hotel's spa is outstanding. Housed in a new wing by local Pritzker Architecture Prize-winner Alvaro Siza Vieira, it has an all-white interior of meticulously aligned marble. Treatments using Aromatherapy Associates and MCCM Medical Cosmetics products are conducted in 20 rooms, five of which are dedicated to water therapies. Bedrooms are decorated in a timeless style in muted colours and there are great views from every bed. Dining options include Salão Nobre Dining Room in the vast former ballroom, the conservatory-roofed Winter Garden and the unusually elegant Club House bar and restaurant, originally a bottling plant for the spa waters.

WHEN TO GO Autumn, to catch some late-summer sun as the trees begin to turn.

ROOM TO BOOK Corner suites, at the end of the long corridors, benefit from additional privacy and dual aspects.

00 351 276 990 920; www.vidagopalace.com. Doubles from €104