

## Casa Velha do Palheiro, Madeira

A luxury Winter Bridge week on this beautiful subtropical island with your hosts Zebedee and Claudia Stocken.

*from* £1593pp\* including :

- 7 nights' stay in this elegant 5-star Relais and Chateaux hotel
- Full board at the restaurant including 3-course dinner with wine
- Unlimited access to hotel spa and sauna with heated pool
- Special green fee rates for hotel's Championship Golf Course
- Refreshments available during Bridge play
- Reception with aperitif and canapés on the first evening
- Transfers from Funchal Airport for selected flights
- All Bridge tuition, course notes and prizes

\*with 10% loyalty discount



**Saturday 3rd February - Saturday 10th February 2018**

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## 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 2015 and 2016 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.

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## **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*

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*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*

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*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.

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## 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. 28m<sup>2</sup>.



### 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. 32m<sup>2</sup>

| PRICES<br>(*per person, based on 2 sharing) | Standard rooms<br>♥ | Superior rooms<br>♠ |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Full Price*                                 | £1770               | £1940               |
| With 10% loyalty discount*                  | £1593               | £1746               |
| Single occupancy                            | £2100               | £2270               |
| Single occupancy with discount              | £1890               | £2043               |

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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 CompassCards (*set deals*) and a fun topic tailored to the group.

The other sessions will be supervised play or some form of duplicate, 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

Duplicate or supervised play

5.30pm - 7.30pm

After dinner supervised bridge or Chicago

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## Excursions and things to do on the island

There will be two wonderful optional excursions and we will contact you nearer the time with details and prices to book these trips in advance:

### **1. Day trip to East Madeira**

This stunning tour of the east of the island includes a visit to Pico do Areeiro, the third highest peak on Madeira, the village of Santana with its traditional A-framed cottages and Machico, Madeira's second largest town. We plan to have lunch in a lovely restaurant overlooking the sea.



### **2. Whale and Dolphin Boat Trip**

A morning boat excursion along the beautiful Madeiran coastline to spot whales and dolphins will be followed by lunch in a local restaurant in the port of Funchal. After lunch, a trip up to the picturesque 'Nuns' Valley' and a visit to the famous Monte Palace Tropical gardens. Possibility to do either the morning or the afternoon if preferred.



### **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.



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## **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. If you want to explore further, you can book a walking guide to take you on one of the island's classic walking routes. 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.

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