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Valença to host cross-border wine festival celebrating Minho and Galicia traditions

Vinhos do Atlântico event highlights regional wines, gastronomy, and cultural exchange along the Portugal-Spain border in June 2025

Monday, June 9, 2025



Valença, a historic town on the Portuguese side of the Minho River, will host a unique cross-border wine event on June 14 and 15, 2025. The Vinhos do Atlântico – Festa da Ribeira Minho brings together producers and enthusiasts from both northern Portugal and Galicia, Spain, in what is considered the only transnational wine festival in the

Euroregion. The event aims to celebrate the shared culture, gastronomy, and winemaking traditions of the Minho region and neighboring Galicia.

The festival will take place in several emblematic locations within Valença's fortress, a site known for its historical significance and panoramic views over the river that marks the border between Portugal and Spain. Over two days, visitors will have the opportunity to taste a curated selection of Atlantic wines from Valença, Monção, Melgaço, and Vale do Lima on the Portuguese side, as well as wines from the Rias Baixas and O Ribeiro denominations in Galicia. The event is designed to highlight the diversity and quality of wines produced in this Atlantic-influenced region.

The program begins on Saturday, June 14, at 11:00 a.m. with the opening of the wine and gastronomy showcase. At noon, there will be a live cooking demonstration titled "Harmonias Atlânticas: Degustar com Conhecimento," featuring pairings of local dishes with regional wines. This session will be led by enologist João Pereira and historian Gonçalo Maia Marques, who will discuss how local history and terroir influence both food and wine.

At 3:00 p.m., participants can join the "Passaporte Vinhos do Atlântico," a guided wine tour through three key heritage sites within Valença's fortress. The tour includes expert commentary from João Pereira and a special heritage visit led by museology specialist Isilda Salvador. Participation in this tour is free but requires advance registration by June 13.

The official opening ceremony is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., followed by an awards ceremony for outstanding Atlantic wines at 9:30 p.m. The evening will conclude with a concert by American blues artist Big Daddy Wilson at 10:30 p.m., bringing an international musical touch to the festivities.

On Sunday, June 15, the showcase reopens at 11:00 a.m., with another edition of "Harmonias Atlânticas" at noon. The festival will close with a performance by Galandum Galundaina at 5:30 p.m., a group known for their interpretations of traditional music from both sides of the Minho River.

Organizers say that Vinhos do Atlântico is more than just a wine fair; it is an opportunity for cultural exchange between Portugal’s Minho region and Galicia. The event seeks to strengthen ties across the border through shared appreciation of wine, food, music, and heritage. Entry to most activities is free, but some require prior registration due to limited capacity.

The festival is expected to attract both locals and tourists interested in discovering Atlantic wines and experiencing cross-border hospitality. With its combination of tastings, guided tours, culinary demonstrations, and live music, Vinhos do Atlântico offers a comprehensive look at what unites these two regions along the banks of the Minho River.