

VII December Weekend in Portugal

The '**December Weekend in Portugal**' will return to same town –Curia – and to the same hotel – the Curia Palace - for its seventh edition as it has already become a home for our SCD weekends in Portugal.

Curia is a spa-town on the northern outskirts of Coimbra, located between Oporto and Lisbon. The Bairrada region, where Curia is situated, is a popular wine-growing district in Portugal, known also for its delicious gastronomy and beautiful landscapes.

The Curia Palace Hotel, with its Belle-Epoque and Art Nouveau styled rooms, is not only a beautiful place to stay, but has a magnificent wooden-floor ballroom. It is in this setting that we will enjoy a weekend programme including two balls with live music by Keith Smith (fiddle) and Anne-Laure Latour (piano), SCD classes with Mathias Ferber and a taste of the local gastronomy and wines.



4 - 6 December 2020
Curia, Portugal



Curia Palace Hotel

The Curia Palace Hotel, located in the centre of the spa town of Curia, is a premier all-season resort set in 14 acres of gardens and parkland, with a golf course, garden estate and vineyards. What Evian stands for in France, Baden Baden in Germany, and Montecani in Italy, so does Curia in Portugal. The name 'Curia' from the Latin *agua curiva*, 'the water that cures', was given by the Romans who first discovered the Curia thermal springs more than a thousand years ago.

Guests enjoy the beautiful Belle-Epoque and Art Nouveau styled rooms, invigorating spa with indoor pool, fine dining in the historic restaurant, outstanding amenities and exceptional service.

Under the theme, 'old world charm meets the 21st century', the hotel has been spectacularly renovated without simply imitating the past, and restored to its rightful status as one of the most beautiful hotels in the Iberian Peninsula. It was re-opened in 2008, preserving and honouring its charm and magic as envisioned by its creator Alexandre de Almeida in 1926.



Source: www.curiapalace.com



Our Musicians



Keith Buchanan Smith

Keith Buchanan Smith is internationally renowned for performing, broadcasting and teaching of classical and Scottish music.

His professional concert and teaching tours with fiddle and highland bagpipes regularly take him to North America, Africa, Europe and Asia.



Keith is featured on many CD recordings for Scottish Country Dancing. His home is in Ardnamurchan on the West coast of Scotland.

www.keithbuchanansmith.wordpress.com



Anne-Laure Latour

Anne-Laure Latour is a native of Normandy (France) and has played music since an early age. She dances, plays for Scottish Country Dancing and is a regular pianist for RSCDS Paris Branch. She also plays internationally for dance events.



Our teacher

Mathias Ferber



Mathias began dancing at the age of 14, practicing French traditional dances and English countrydances before focusing more on SCD. Since 2000, he has been a regular dancer of Scottish Dance groups in Geneva, Lausanne and Lyon.

Mathias is now living in Paris, and teaches at the Paris Branch since 2012. He passed his RSCDS teaching certificate in August 2019.



Programme

Friday 4th December 2020

15h00- 17h00 Welcome Desk at the Curia Palace Hotel

17h00-18h10 *Walk-through*

19h30 Welcome Dinner

21h00 Welcome dance (intermediate/advanced)

Music: Keith Smith & Anne-Laure Latour

Saturday 5th December 2020

10h00-11h00 SCD Class (intermediate/advanced)

11h00-11h15 coffee break (coffee, juices and cakes)

11h15-12h30 SCD Class (intermediate/advanced)

Teacher: Mathias Ferber

12h30 – 17h30 Free Time

Or

Half-Day tour

(please consult: optional HD Tour)

17h30 – 18h45 *Walk-through*

19h30 Gala Dinner

21h00 Scottish Country Dance Ball (intermediate/advanced)

Music: Keith Smith & Anne-Laure Latour



Sunday 6th December 2020

10h00-11h00 SCD Class (intermediate/advanced)

11h00-11h15 coffee break (coffee, juices and cakes)

11h15-12h30 SCD Class (intermediate/advanced)

Teacher: Mathias Ferber

Farewell



Rates:

Early price (paid by the end of June 2020):

290€ / person for dancers

190€/ person for non-dancers

Single use of room: 80€/ person

Basic Rate:

330€ / person for dancers

230€ / person for non-dancers

Single use of room: 80€ / person

Including:

- Accommodation for two nights in the 4-star Curia Palace Hotel
- Meals at the hotel: two breakfasts, two dinners, two coffee breaks during classes;
- Two SCD Balls
- Dance Classes

Non-resident option:

Early price (paid by the end of June 2020):

190€ / person for dancers

90€/ person for non-dancers

Basic Rate:

230€ / person for dancers

130€ / person for non-dancers

Including:

- Meals at the hotel: two dinners, two coffee breaks during classes;
- Two SCD Balls
- Dance Classes



Optional:

Extra night at the hotel:

45€/ person in a DBL room

85€/ person in a SGL room

- A) **Half Day tour on Saturday Afternoon –to be confirmed in Spring 2020 after being designed and experienced by the organizers**

Applications

Applications can be made by completing and sending the application form to the following email:

dancinginportugal@gmail.com

The application will be confirmed by email, which will also include all the details about the payment.

Any questions or suggestions can be sent by email to Mrs Adriana Jurczyk Duarte to the following

addresses: dancinginportugal@gmail.com or info@moonluza.pt

Payment

Payments should be done by PayPal or by bank transfer **in EUR**. Please send an email to the above email address for payment details. All bank charges must be paid by the applicant.

Cancellation

Should this unfortunate circumstance arise, please note the cancellation policy:

- 90 % of the total participation fee will be repaid if cancelled before 1 October 2020
- 50% of the participation fee will be repaid if cancelled before 1 November 2020. We will not be able to repay participation fees if cancellation is received after this date.

Please make sure you have adequate insurance coverage for all eventualities.



Bairrada Region

Home of Portugal's Baga Grape

Bairrada is located between two important university cities, Coimbra and Aveiro, in the western part of the Beiras, between the mountainous Dão region and the surf-washed Atlantic beaches. A region that is of great diversity and notable scenic contrast, visitors can travel through unique and distinct landscape within a few kilometers. The vineyards, the sierra, the estuary and the sea, all complement the charms of cities and rural areas. Here you can sample glorious table- and sparkling-wines, eat delicious regional products, find local handicrafts and much more.....

Source: www.curiapalace.com/ www.lifecooler.com/ www.winesofportugal.info



Getting to Curia:

Curia is located between Lisbon (200km) and Oporto (100 km), so you can choose your flight either to Lisbon International Airport or Oporto International Airport.

Getting to Curia by car from the airport:

Easy and convenient access by A1 motorway (both from Lisbon or Oporto) and exit Mealhada (GPS :40°25'29,18"N / 8°27'46,40"W);

Getting to curia by train:

From Lisbon: trains from Santa Apolonia Station to Curia – 2h16 with one change;

On an average weekday, there are 16 trains per day travelling from Lisbon Santa Apolonia to Curia.

Tickets and information: <https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en/train-times/Train-time-results>

From Oporto: trains from Porto Campanha to Curia – 1h20 with one change;

Tickets and information: <https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en/train-times/Train-time-results>

The Curia Palace Hotel is within 550m of the station.

As in previous weekend we will have a Happy Dancing Bus- a collective transfer -from the Lisbon Airport to the Curia Palace Hotel on Friday morning and back to Lisbon on Sunday afternoon.

