

VI 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 sixth 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 Muriel Johnstone (piano) and Ian Robertson (fiddle), SCD classes with Raphaëlle Orgeret and a taste of the local gastronomy and wines.



6 - 8 December 2019
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

Muriel Johnstone



Muriel Johnstone has earned a reputation as one of the finest musicians currently playing for Scottish Dance, both as a solo performer and with other musicians. She has rightly been described as 'A Keeper of Scottish Tradition'. Muriel began playing piano at the age of seven, and dancing when she was eight. She has played for dancing since 1965, played at RSCDS Summer School since 1975, arranged the music for the Society's Books 28 to 41, started 'Scotscores' in 1984 and has travelled the world since 1988.

She has never lost her enthusiasm for the music and the dance of her native Scotland.

She considers herself to be one of the lucky ones having a career doing something she absolutely loves.

In December 2014 we had the privilege and enormous pleasure to dance to the tunes of Muriel's fantastic music during our first December Weekend in Portugal. And it is absolutely fantastic that we may have Muriel back in Portugal this year!



Interviews with Muriel: <http://moonluza.pt/events/16/ptfado-e-a-danca-escocesaenfado-and-scottish-country-dancingplfado-i-tance-szkockie/?lang=en>



Ian Robertson



Ian was born and brought up in Buckinghamshire, England and comes from a family steeped in Scottish music. His great-grandmother was a fine pianist who is known to have accompanied James Scott Skinner in the late 1800s and his father led his own band for many years.

Classically trained, but with a lifelong passion for the fiddle, Ian has played with Scottish Dance Bands for many years, including 15 years leading his own band, Sound Company. Ian has been a regular guest at major festivals throughout the UK and Europe. In 2011 he competed in the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championships at Blair Castle.

Ian now leads his band playing accordion and is busy with bookings on the Scottish Country Dance and ceilidh scenes. In recent years, he has been a regular at the RSCDS Winter School and has played for weekend schools and functions across the UK and Europe, Canada and Australia. He is still much in demand as a fiddle player and plays regularly with some of the top names in the scene.

Ian is an accomplished composer and in 2014 published "The Call of Home", his first volume of compositions for fiddle and accordion.



Our teacher

Raphaëlle Orgeret



Raphaëlle lives and teaches in Lyon, France. She is now in charge of the Branch and runs classes for adults and children. She has taught at Summer School, Winter School, Spring Fling and other SCD events in Europe.

She enjoys teaching very much but what she likes best is sharing the joy of dancing and meeting new friends throughout the world.



Programme

Friday 6th December 2019

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

17h00-18h10 *Walk-through*

19h30 Welcome Dinner

21h00 Welcome dance (intermediate/advanced)

Music: Muriel Johnstone & Ian Robertson

Saturday 7th December 2019

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

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

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

Teachers: Raphaelle Orgeret

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: Muriel Johnstone & Ian Robertson



Sunday 8th December 2019

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

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

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

Teacher: Raphaëlle Orgeret

Farewell



Rates:

Early price (paid by the end of June 2019):

290€ / person for dancers

190€/ person for non-dancers

Single use of room: 85€/ person

Basic Rate:

335€ / person for dancers

235€ / person for non-dancers

Single use of room: 85€ / 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 2019):

190€ / person for dancers

85€/ person for non-dancers

Basic Rate:

235€ / person for dancers

133€ / 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 2019 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 2019
- 50% of the participation fee will be repaid if cancelled before 1 November 2019. 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.

