

GARDENS OF MADEIRA

Explore the gardens and scenic wonders of Madeira
whilst enjoying the luxury of Belmond Reid's Palace
with Guest Speaker Rosemary Legrand

15th to 22nd April 2020 & 14th to 21st April 2021

NOBLE CALEDONIA

The delights of Madeira have been enjoyed by travellers for many a year. This gem of an island, a mere dot in the ocean some 400 miles off the coast of Morocco has escaped the worst of tourism development. True, there is little in the way of beaches, but this has probably been her saving grace as what she lacks on this front she more than makes up for in others.

Madeira is scenically stunning – stark mountain peaks give way to lush cultivated terraces, where every patch of land is utilised to such colourful effect. Wine, bananas and exotic flowers, which form the backbone of the island's economy, create the amazingly lush landscape and together with the unique architecture make Madeira a very special place. Not only is it visually stunning, it also has a historic and cultural depth rarely found on isolated islands of its size. The first Portuguese settlers arrived in the early 1400's and exploited Madeira's fertile soil and perfect climate. Growing 'white gold' the island grew rich on abundant sugar cane harvests and diversified into wines and growing provisions for the ever-increasing sea trade.

We have chosen the iconic Belmond Reid's Palace for our stay. Some hotels have such a strong attraction that their appeal can be greater than that of the destination itself. Belmond Reid's Palace is such a hotel, being one of the best-loved resort hotels in the world. A fine tradition, marvellous location and an ownership that has lavished vast sums of money and love means that today it is one of the finest hotels in the world.

Madeira is a wonderful place for a relaxing week and when you can pull yourself away from the beautiful gardens and pool terraces of Belmond Reid's Palace, there is much to explore. We have therefore devised an itinerary which includes ample time to enjoy the hotel but with the added benefit of included guided excursions, with a focus on the island's wonderful gardens allowing you to experience some of the breathtakingly stunning scenery, stroll around private gardens, learn something of Madeira's history and sample the wines.





Madeira coastline



Fortress of Sao Tiago



Traditional house in Santana



Monte Tropical Garden and Palace

Guest Speaker – Rosemary Legrand



Rosemary is a former nursery owner and daughter of the late George Hyde, who was a hybridist of azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of his award winning hybrid plants can be seen at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, the de Rothschild rhododendron gardens at Exbury, Hampshire and the National Trust Gardens at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. Rosemary had the honour of presenting HM The Queen with a collection of her late Father's azaleas named after the Queen's former Head Gardener, Fred Nutbeam, at Chelsea Flower Show in 1996. Her enjoyment of photography is used to great effect in creating the atmosphere of the gardens she discusses in her range of illustrated talks. She has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world to amass a substantial library of pictures. Rosemary is an experienced public speaker and has given presentations to a wide range of organisations since 1992. She is on the RHS Speakers Register, is a NAFAS Area Speaker, and wrote a number of contributions for the book, '1001 Gardens you must see before you die' and an article for the Royal Horticultural Society 'Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia 2014 Year Book'."

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Madeira, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the luxurious Belmond Reid's Palace for a seven night stay. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 2 City Tour. This morning we take a panoramic sightseeing tour of Funchal. Our first stop will be at the city market, where we will see the local produce of Madeira, baskets filled with tropical fruit and vegetables, flowers, local handicrafts and an impressive fish market. After stopping at various points of interest in the town centre, we visit the Madeira Wine Lodge, one of the oldest wine lodges in Madeira, where we will learn about the Madeira Wine, world famous for over 400 years. After lunch in a local restaurant we will return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure to enjoy the facilities.

Day 3 Quinta do Palheiro & Lunch at Clubhouse of Palheiro Gardens. Madeira is famed for its beautiful flowers and today's tour will give you a glimpse of some of the vegetation of Madeira. The gardens of Quinta do Palheiro, currently owned by the Blandy family were originally laid out in the 18th century. Some of the original themed gardens have survived to the present day, plus new plants have been introduced, making the gardens even more fascinating. After our visit to the garden, lunch will be served at the Clubhouse Restaurant of Palheiro Golf course. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 4 Quinta das Cruzes Museum & Quinta da Boa Vista Gardens. Quinta das Cruzes Museum is located in the centre of Funchal and features a vast collection of decorative art and antiques from the 17th and 18th century. Once the formal residence of Joao Goncalves Zarco, the museum is surrounded by beautiful gardens offering a variety of exotic flowers, trees and other species of flora. After our visit we continue to Quinta da Boa Vista Garden, well known for the many fine varieties of orchids and 20-year-old orchid exhibition. Today this family run garden is dedicated to the preservation of many species of plants and flowers, some of which are close to extinction. Quinta da Boa Vista is proud to present not just the best orchid collection but rare exotic plants from all around the world. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before meeting this evening for dinner at Restaurante do Forte in the Fortress of Sao Tiago which offers superb regional, national and international gastronomy. Dinner will be served in the middle roof terrace with a view to the sea and mountains (if the weather does not permit the use of the outdoor areas, dinner will be held under cover on the ground floor of the fort).

Day 5 East Tour – Santana. This morning we head towards the central mountain range, over Poiso Pass to Pico de Arieiro, the third highest peak of the island which offers magnificent views on a clear day. We continue to Ribeiro Frio to visit the trout hatchery and for those interested, enjoy a short leisurely walk to Balcoes. This area is also known for the Laurisilva forest and several Laurisilva forest species and some indigenous flora and fauna



Gardens of the Belmond Reid's Palace



Orchids



Lake and gardens of Santa Catarina Park, Funchal

can be observed along the levada walk. We continue through Faial and stop for lunch followed by a visit to the village of Santana, famous for the traditional houses with thatched roofs and the densely planted vineyards. Our penultimate stop today will be the village of Porto da Cruz and up to Portela for wonderful views of the island before continuing to the village of Machico, once a small fishing village, hidden in the bay and stretching out over the hillsides.

Day 6 Botanical Gardens. Since the 17th century, Madeira had wanted a Botanical Garden – a dream that came true in 1960. The Botanical Gardens, with an area of over 35,000 square metres, has more than 2000 exotic plants from all continents, some of which are endangered species. This fantastic garden has several ornamental trees and shrubs, an orchid area, lawns, and lovely viewpoints. After our visit to the garden, we will drive up towards the eastern end of the island to the parish of Sao Gongalo, for lunch in a typical Madeira restaurant. After lunch we return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

Day 7 Monte Palace Tropical Garden & Eira do Serrado. This morning we visit Monte, a charming village high in the hills overlooking Funchal. We will reach Monte by cable car experiencing wonderful views along the way. Once at Monte we will visit the Monte Palace Tropical Garden. This garden collection has been enriched with plants from all over the world and about 100,000 plant species have been planted. The garden

also features a collection of cycads (encephalartos) which, because of their age, are considered living fossils. We continue to Eira do Serrado from where we will enjoy incredible views over Curral das Freiras – ‘Nun’s Valley’, a small village situated deep in an extinct crater not far from the highest peak of Madeira. Enjoy a final afternoon at leisure before we meet this evening for our farewell dinner at the hotel.

Day 8 Madeira to London. Transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.



Funchal by night



Quinta do Palheiro

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

CATEGORY	2020	2021
Classic Room	£2595	£2795
Superior Room	£2795	£2995
Deluxe Room	£3095	£3295
Classic Room for sole use	£3695	£3995
Superior Room for sole use	£3895	£4195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven nights accommodation at Belmond Reid’s Palace on bed and breakfast basis • Lunch on days 2, 3, 5 & 6 • Dinner on days 1, 4 & 7 • Wine, beer and soft drinks with meals • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Local guides • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

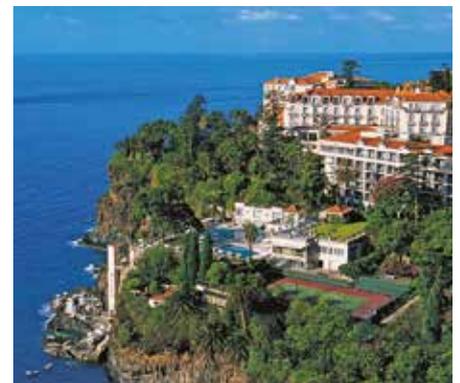
Not Included: Travel insurance.



The hotel's Villa Cipriani Italian Restaurant

BELMOND REID'S PALACE

Set on the cliff tops overlooking the Bay of Funchal and the Atlantic, Belmond Reid's Palace has, for over 100 years, been a standard-bearer for excellence. Scotsman William Reid, who in 1891 founded Madeira's now most celebrated hotel, would take justifiable pride in the world-wide reputation rightly earned by this fine establishment. Many grand hotels with a history find it impossible to adapt to the changing needs of the modern market. Not so Reid's, which has glided from generation to generation subtly adapting to new market needs, yet never discarding its classic style or forgetting its great heritage. The result today is a superbly comfortable resort hotel, which pays great attention to its individual guests' requirements and sets the standard in that small club of truly great five star hotels.



The hotel overlooking the Atlantic Ocean

Your Accommodation

All Belmond Reid's Palace rooms feature balconies and face the sea and gardens offering wonderful views of the beautiful coastline. Complimentary mini bar for non-alcoholic drinks, iPod docking station and free internet is also included. In addition each room features air-conditioning, bathrobes, in-room safe, Cable TV and Video/DVD.

Classic Rooms: These offer an average of 23 square metres of living space in a traditional style. Enjoy partial sea views on the private balcony. Classic rooms offer private marble baths and one king or twin beds.

Superior Rooms: These offer an average of 26 square metres of living space. The Superior Rooms offer balconies or private patios, sea views or garden views, private marble baths and one king or twin beds.

Deluxe Rooms: These offer an average of 31 square metres of living space and are located in the most sought-after locations with large covered balconies and great sea views.



Bathroom



Deluxe Room



Superior Room



Dining Room



The Tea Terrace



Swimming Pool



Lounge

Your Space

Set in ten acres of lush semi-tropical gardens overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, this is the perfect place to relax and discover the beauty of the plants and birds that make Madeira such a remarkable place. For more active pursuits there are two heated pools, one with salt water, one with fresh water and a tidal pool by the sea. The property also features two tennis courts, fitness room and sauna. Other facilities include a bridge and games room, library, lounges and bars, beauty salon and boutique.

Your Dining

Dining is always a pleasure at Belmond Reid's Palace. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the Garden Room Restaurant, or a buffet lunch on the Pool Terrace. The recently opened William Restaurant, led by Executive Chef Luis Pestana and supervised by the Michelin star chef Joachim Koerper, is a tribute to the visionary and creative man William Reid, founder of the hotel, who having seen a simple rock visualized the future. This new addition offers a creative approach on modern European food, where contemporary meets Madeira, to create seasonal food of the highest quality. The Dining room is the Lady of Reid's restaurants with drooping Murano Glass chandeliers and Edwardian decoration. Afternoon Tea is an iconic event at Reid's Palace dating back to when the hotel first opened. The (High) Afternoon Tea boasts Reid's Palace Own Blend Tea. Finally, Villa Cipriani is Reid's informal Italian restaurant, perched on a cliff top.



Hotel gardens

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: The Botanical gardens above the capital city of Funchal.