

## Salamanca & the Castilian Culture

Known as the golden city for the glow of its sandstone buildings, Salamanca is one of Europe's most spectacular Renaissance cities. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988, a walk through the old city centre is a walk through time and architectural styles. Home to one of Europe's oldest universities, Salamanca is also famed for its buzzing nightlife that offers a variety of entertainment guaranteed to delight everyone.

Salamanca is conveniently located in the centre of a variety of culturally interesting destinations. A number of neighbouring prestigious wine appellations, the Iberian ham village of Guijuelo and noble *fincas de toros* add an authentic flavour of Castile and Leon's culture to the tour.

### Day I: Exploring Toro's Emerging Wine Appellation

We'll explore one of Spain's up and coming wine denominations that has created quite a stir among international wine circles. Discover why such names as Gerard Depardieu, Vega Sicilia and Moët Hennessy have established their own wineries in the Toro appellation. We'll take a private tour of a prestigious winery in Toro to taste these full bodied reds and discover the secret of this region predicted by Robert Parker to be one of Spain's top by 2015.

Depending on the season, we could enjoy a walk through the vineyards with the master winemaker to appreciate first hand the many complex factors that influence the winemaking process. Or perhaps other creative wine games or activities in the vineyard would add the perfect touch to your incentive program or corporate meeting.





### Day 2: Spanish fighting bulls

We'll also immerse ourselves in the Spanish tradition of bullfighting. In Spain, bullfighting is considered to be an authentic demonstration of style, technique and courage by the torero against his worthy adversary, the bull. We'll visit a nearby country estate dedicated to raising these Spanish fighting bulls to learn how these noble animals are bred and prepared for their moment in the ring. We'll enjoy an innocent re-enactment of this traditional art form, known locally as a *tentadero*, in which these specialized breeders qualify the bull's bravura. A pleasant and educational evening spent on the vast open pastures of Castile & Leon.

### Day 3: The delicious *pata negra*



A trip to Salamanca and Castile & Leon would not be complete without trying some *pata negra*. And what exactly is *pata negra*? We'll discover Spain's exquisitely flavoured cured ham that has become an emblematic symbol of Spanish cuisine. The ham experts from DO Guijuelo will show us first hand how these highly prized pork products are made and the proper etiquette involved in carving and tasting them.