

## ***Alto Douro Wine Region***

Coordinated by **Helder Marques** and **Mário Fernandes**

Departure from Porto at 8:00; arrival to Porto at 20:00.

Cost: 65 € - includes boat (Porto-Régua) and train (Régua-Porto) transport, breakfast and lunch at the boat.

Until one century ago, the *Douro* River was the main route linking the city of Porto to its rural hinterland extended until the Spanish border.

Boarding on the river port of *Ribeira*, in Porto, we will travel through a territory marked by granite and by a type of landscape, and an arrangement of fields, that is characteristic of the *Entre-Douro-e-Minho* region. The strength and lush of the vegetative forms framing the vines that offer the *Vinho Verde* is a unique feature of this territory.

Near the city of *Régua*, in Barrô, we will enter in the *Alto Douro* Wine Region, a landscape marked by soils of schist and by a monoculture of the vine, characteristic of the Demarcated Region of *Alto Douro*. The demarcation of this territory took place in the second half of the eighteenth century by initiative of the Marquês de Pombal, the minister of King D. José.

The city of *Régua*, the urban heart of the region, started to acquire its urban characteristics during the administration of Pombal, when the *Companhia Geral da Agricultura das Vinhas do Alto Douro* was constituted reinforcing the link between the region and the city of Porto. Mainly structured by a street and by a port, the city of *Régua* becomes gradually consolidated. Two important events were fundamental for this consolidation process - the construction of the seventeenth century road to the city of *Amarante* and, in 1879, the construction of the railway linking it to the city of Porto.