



Food Guide

Restaurants, beach bars,
bars and tascas

Ayamonte and eastern Algarve

By Joan Resina, Director of Hotel Boutique Isla Canela Golf



With this quick guide we want to give you a sneak peek of what's on offer in Isla Canela, Ayamonte and nearby Algarve in terms of food and possible trips to discover this wonderful area.



Thebussem restaurant





"I'm referring to establishments with place settings and tablecloths, proper restaurants"

◆ **Thebussem restaurant**

Undoubtedly the restaurant with the most creative cuisine in Ayamonte, combining local produce, Mediterranean cuisine and fusion cooking. The sampling menus are highly recommended. Located in Hotel Isla Canela Golf. Average price: €30

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◆ **El Minutero**

Are you looking for a seafood restaurant where you can eat good fish? On the Pinillo promenade, in the Isla Canela Marina, in the Punta del Moral area. It's a good option, and has always had a good name. I recommend making a reservation.

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◆ **El Choco**

Coquina clams, prawns and fish in general. Around €40 per person.

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◆ **PA The Culinary Bar**

Located in the Plaza de la Lota and known as "La Puerta Alta", Fabio Zerbo has turned his restaurant into a gastronomic reference in Ayamonte. The decoration and interior design will make you enjoy a magnificent creative and quality menu in a very cosy atmosphere. I would be remiss if I recommended any particular dish because all the ones I have eaten have been fantastic, but if I were to recommend but if you ask me... the risotto and for carnivores the Tomahawk. It is essential to book well in advance.

◆ **Casa Luciano**

A classic in Ayamonte with great fish. Around €50 per person.

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“Here I include bars, taverns and tascas. They’re all quite small so large groups aren’t an option, but there’s no problems for groups of 6-8 people.”

◆ **El Paladar**

It sells so much produce every day that freshness is guaranteed. A tasca/ tavern. There’s nothing more typical in Ayamonte that enjoying some tapas, but as I said, this is an AUTHENTIC TASCA.

◆ **El Costalero**

Next to the steps of the Church of Las Angustias. A small bar decorated in the Holy Week theme. The terrace is magnificent and the tapas are tasty, tasty. Good value for money.

◆ **Merkajamon**

It’s a delicatessen store that also has barrels as tables where you can taste Iberian products and some of the delicacies it sells. Ideal for enjoying a glass of wine or a bottle of beer with a plate of Iberian ham, cured pork sausages, cheese, etc. Right next to the marina. Small. Average price.

◆ **El Cortada**

Next to the church of Las Angustias. They say it has the best ray in paprika in Ayamonte (typical local dish). A Classic Bar in Ayamonte. Good value for money.

◆ **Tasca Margallo**

One of Ayamonte’s most famous tascas. Passed down from grandfather to son and now to the grandson. They only offer three dishes: Fried fish, fried cuttlefish and seasoned tomato (nothing else). Street terrace. If you’re looking for authentic and cheap, this is the place for you.

◆ **El Orta.**

One of the oldest food shops in Ayamonte with a pleasant courtyard at the back. You can choose tapas from ‘tins’, Iberian pork, cheese, etc., but nothing cooked. Average price.



BEACH BARS AND SEAFOOD RESTAURANTS

“Punta del Moral is Ayamonte’s fishing neighbourhood. It’s divided into the beach and the old town. Most restaurants in the old town are run by fishing families with their own boats.”



◆ Chiringuito Bombadil

On Isla Canela beach. A beach bar right on the sand. Great cuisine, especially fish, coquina clams, prawns and much more. And it has a pleasant atmosphere. A good place for groups as it is quite spacious. Average price.

◆ Casa Miguel Ángel y Micaela

At the entrance to the old town of Punta del Moral. A reference point for rice dishes... it is difficult not to be satisfied with their paellas and rice dishes. Also good fish and seafood stews. Reservations are necessary. Average price.

◆ Restaurante La Bocana

Found in the Marina de Isla Canela shopping centre, in Punta del Moral. A great option for fish. With views over the mouth to Isla Canela Marina and Isla Cristina. The quality is always very good. Best to call and book a table.

◆ **Restaurantes Antonio.**

Several restaurants in Punta de Moral typical for their rice dishes. They have several restaurants, one of them in the Marina Isla Canela itself, Antonio V, and another on the quay facing the estuary towards Isla Cristina, Antonio IV. They do not accept reservations and therefore it is better to go early. Average price.



◆ **Restaurante A3-Casa Manolo**

Because good seafood cuisine also accepts creativity. It is a pleasure to go to A3 Casa Manolo and enjoy the classics and the innovation that comes out of its cookers. It is located on Paseo del Pinillo, in Marina Isla Canela in Punta del Moral. Book in advance. 640 23 22 22 16. Average price.

◆ **La Pamela**

In Punta del Moral old town. They serve tapas, portions and half portions. Produce is always fresh from the sea as they have their own boats. Average price.

EATING IN PORTUGAL

"As you know, we're at the border with Portugal.

A beautiful trip that takes up little time is to cross the Guadiana River with the boat connecting Ayamonte with Vila Real de San Antonio. The price is very affordable and the boat departs every 30 or 60 minutes, depending on the time of day. Then it's just a 5 minute walk to Vila Real centre. A great place for shopping and eating.

Food in Portugal is generally good, simple cuisine cooked mainly on the grill or over coals. The rice with pod razors, seafood, lobster, etc., are a great option, as well as typical Portuguese dish El Bacalhau or La Cataplana, a tradition in the Algarve by cooking fish or seafood in copper pots.

In this nearby area of the Algarve I would recommend five restaurants: But watch out! Portions in Portugal are sometimes very generous. A creamy rice for 3 is enough for 4 or 5 normal eaters."





◆ **Chiringuito Pezinhos na Areia**

In Praia Verde, under the O Infante Panorámico restaurant. Ideal for dinner. I love it. One of my favourites. In addition to fish, you can try spaghetti with clams or prawns with curried rice that will have you licking your plate! Ideal location... Perfect for a romantic evening.



◆ **Costa Restaurant**

Located in Fábrika. I've tried the rice dishes and, honestly, they're fantastic. Fábrika is a small town just after Cacela Velha, on the sea front. Out of curiosity, the mega villa on the left belongs to former US Secretary of State John Kerry who is married to Theresa Heinz (the famous ketchup brand) and, as she's of Portuguese descent, they decided to buy this villa. Claude Picasso (son of Pablo Picasso) also has a home in this area. Average price.

◆ **O Infante Panorámico Restaurant**

In Playa Verde. Around 20 km from the border. Standing on top of a hill with spectacular views over Cabezo beach. A great place for lunch so you can enjoy the views. One of the typical dishes on offer is "Zapateira". Average price.

◆ **O cisne Restaurant**

In Vila Real de Santo Antonio. One of the best options for chicken in the area at really attractive prices. A typical eatery that offers chicken as well as grilled meat and fish. Personally, I love it!!! Close to the Vila Real lighthouse. R. Padre Jorge Leiria 8

◆ **Casa Velha Typical Restaurant**

In Cacela Velha. The lobster rice dishes are sublime; a visit around midday is especially worth it so you can enjoy the small town of Cacela Velha. Standing on a cliff opposite Mantarota beach, in the Ría Formosa national park. Take a trip to enjoy its streets and view, and end your walk with some rice with lobster. Average price.

THE ALGARVE

The Algarve motorway is an “electronic” toll road. Cash payments are NOT accepted as there is no staff. Different payment methods are accepted but a credit card is the most practical. When you cross the international bridge, there are three covered lanes on the right where you can enter your credit card, they read the car registration number and the two are linked for a month. This way, every time you drive under the detectors along the motorway, your toll will be charged to your card at the end of the day. In any case, the first two exits are free.

If you plan to travel to Tavira (30 km from the border), you don't need to pay because you can take the second exit and then continue on the national 125 road. If you don't need to pay, there's no need to divert to the right like I said; you can continue directly to the motorway without stopping.

There are several interesting spots between Tavira and Vila Real de Santo Antonio, the town that stands opposite Ayamonte.

To start, crossing the border on the Guadiana Ferry is a great experience. It departs on the hour and on the half hour. You can go by ferry and return on the motorway.*

**your toll will be charged to your card at the end of the day*

Vila Real de Santo Antonio is a commercial town, it has a beautiful square, shops... not much else.



Take the N125 from Vila Real or take exit 2 on the motorway, **Altureira-Montegordo**, you'll pass by several roundabouts and after one that leads to **Vilanova de Cacela**, continue along the national road and look out because on the left you'll see the entrance to **Cacela Velha**. The beach you'll see opposite Cacela Velha is **Mantarota**, a beautiful spot that marks the beginning of the **Ria Formosa National Park**, which reaches **Faro**.

Praia de Manta Rota. To get here, as I said before, take the second exit on the motorway and then the N125 towards Faro.

Look out because at km4 approximately, you'll see a sign on your left indicating **Manta Rota**. Enter the town and keep going to the end, there you'll find a car park and a large square with walkways leading to the beach. If you head along the beach towards Faro you'll come to the **Ria Formosa** nature park. At this section, the beach is like an arm of sand with **Ria Formosa** behind it.

By following the N125, you will reach **Tavira** and see its Roman bridge. A great place for strolling around the centre, climbing up to the castle or enjoying a refreshment in one of its squares..

Tavira is not a seaside town. Between it and the sea the **Ria Formosa** can be found. At **Tavira**, you can enjoy two magnificent beaches.

La Ilha de Tavira: you will need to drive to a car park and take a small boat to cross over to the beach (beach bars are available for drinks and food).

La Praia do Barril: From the centre of **Tavira**, you need to head towards **Santa Luzia** (a great place to eat fish, octopus particularly) and take the turning for **Pedras do Rei** (10 minutes in total). Park here and then take the little train to the beach in 5 minutes. An interesting experience.

Tavira is also home to a new shopping centre, albeit not very large.



Alcoutim is a small town with all the charms of the Portuguese Algarve.

Getting to Fuzeta:

You can take a boat from **Fuzeta**. Exit 2 on the motorway, N125 towards **Tavira**, pass by Tavira, at the roundabout with a boat sail, follow along the N125... pass by Luz de **Tavira** and then on the left there's an entrance indicating **Fuzeta**. From this port you can take a sea taxi to the islands.



Tavira

If you decide to continue to **Faro**, stay on the N125 that will lead you to the city. It's the capital of the **Algarve**. It has a walled old town and a cathedral. A large shopping centre and not much more to see.

Getting to Alcoutim and Mértola:

Cross the bridge and take exit 1. Head towards **Beja**, take the first exit for the road to **Beja**, heading to the Golf Course and **Junqueira**. Pass by the village of **Azinhãl** (A Prova bakery) just a few kms away, take the junction to **Foz de Odeleite** and stay on the road that runs alongside the river to **Alcoutim**. Make sure you enjoy this

road that's seems to be straight out of a `70s Costumbrist film. For me it's a very relaxing trip.



From **Alcoutim** to **Mértola** you can't get lost, it's well signposted. (From **Ayamonte** to **Mértola** it's about 78 km, but quite a short drive... roads in the **Algarve** and **Alentejo** regions are not busy).

Worth seeing a bit further away:



Lagos (stylish tourist area, no masses), **Sagres** (historic town famous for being the departure point of the Portuguese discoverers), close to Sagres is **Cabo San Vicente** (the tip of Portugal). The beaches that feature in all promotional photos of the **Algarve**.



Benagil, the cathedral of the Algarve:

With rocks that emerge from the water and cliffs forming coves. They can be found in the Lagos area; Praia da Marinha is the most famous. Around 130 km from **Ayamonte**.

Albufeira is Portugal's answer to Benidorm or Lloret de Mar, full of bars, restaurants and discotheques.

Vilamoura is the Marbella of Portugal, with a luxury marina and golf courses.

Silves, a typical inland village of the Algarve. Typical dishes: Seafood rice, fish or seafood cataplanas (a traditional cooking method using special "pots") and cod cooked in many different ways as it's the national dish.

The Portuguese cakes and pastries are a great way to treat yourself...

I only mention it out of curiosity or if you have a couple of hours to spare from **Ayamonte** and fancy a coffee and a cake. A bakery in **Azinhal**. It is called **A Prova**. It's pastries are famous and well-priced. Take the first exit on the motorway to **Beja**, after about 7 km you'll see the sign for **Azinhal**.



Isla Canela



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|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 - La Quinta I | 9 - El Rincón del Golf III | 17 - Las Garzas | 25 - Aptos. Hotel Playacanela | 33 - El Faro I | 41 - Los Flamencos |
| 2 - La Quinta II | 10 - San Bruno I | 18 - Los Cisnes | 26 - Playa Canela I | 34 - El Faro II | 42 - Los Colibries |
| 3 - Chalets Golf | 11 - San Bruno II | 19 - Los Gavilanes | 27 - La Marina I | 35 - El Faro III | 43 - Hotel Barcoá Isla Canela |
| 4 - Apartamentos Golf | 12 - Playa Alta I | 20 - Los Albatros | 28 - La Marina II | 36 - Residencial Atlántico | 44 - Hotel Melá Atlántico Isla Canela |
| 5 - Las Marismas | 13 - Playa Alta II | 21 - Los Pelicanos | 29 - La Marina III | 37 - Las Arenas | 45 - Hotel Playa Canela |
| 6 - El Rincón del Golf I | 14 - Alcaudón | 22 - Las Palmeras | 30 - La Marina IV | 38 - Ocean Homes | 46 - Hotel Iberostar Isla Canela |
| 7 - El Rincón del Golf II | 15 - Alcaraván | 23 - Playa Verde | 31 - Playa Grande | 39 - Casas de la Marismas | 47 - Hotel Isla Canela Golf |
| 8 - Pradogolf | 16 - Canela Park | 24 - Jardines de Isla Canela | 32 - Las Dunas | 40 - Los Camaleones | 48 - Hotel Playa Marina |



"To end this guide, I want to recommend the Isla Canela APP. A great tool if you want to know what's going on in Isla Canela.

It also features all the local attractions, not just restaurants and leisure options, but also events and information of interest during your stay."

