



Gastronomic Guide

Restaurants, Beach Bars, Wine
Bars & Traditional Taverns

Ayamonte & the Eastern Algarve

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Boutique*





With this quick guide, we would like to give you a taste of everything that Isla Canela, Ayamonte and the nearby Eastern Algarve have to offer, from outstanding gastronomy to memorable excursions that will help you discover this wonderful region.



"By this guide, I mean proper sit-down restaurants."

1993

Without a doubt, the most creative restaurant in Ayamonte. Its cuisine combines local ingredients, Mediterranean traditions and contemporary fusion influences. The tasting menus are particularly recommended. Located at Isla Canela Golf Hotel.



La Rana

Looking for a traditional seafood restaurant serving excellent fresh fish? In Barriada de Canela you'll find one of the area's best-known establishments. It has enjoyed an excellent reputation for many years.
Advance booking is recommended.



"This section includes wine bars, taverns and traditional tapas bars. Most are quite small, so they are not suitable for large groups. However, parties of six to eight people will have no problem finding a table."

Merkajamon

A gourmet delicatessen and wine bar located in Ayamonte, just a short walk from the marina. It specialises in Iberian cured ham, artisan cheeses, gourmet preserves and a carefully selected range of wines, offering an authentic gastronomic experience in a warm and traditional atmosphere.



El Orta.

One of Ayamonte's oldest delicatessen shops, featuring a charming courtyard at the back. Perfect for enjoying gourmet tinned seafood, Iberian cured meats and cheeses. Please note that hot tapas are not served.



Beach Bars & Seafood Restaurants

"Punta del Moral is Isla Canela's traditional fishing quarter, where you can enjoy some of the finest fresh fish and seafood on the coast."

Casa Miguel Ángel y Micaela

Located at the entrance to Punta del Moral's old quarter. A true benchmark for rice dishes. Their paellas and traditional brothy rice dishes are outstanding, while the fresh fish and seafood stews are equally worth trying. Reservations are essential.



Chiringuito Bombadil

Located directly on Isla Canela Beach. A fantastic beachfront restaurant where you can enjoy outstanding fresh fish, clams, king prawns and many other seafood specialities in a relaxed atmosphere. It is also an excellent choice for larger groups thanks to its spacious layout.



El Chiringuito III

Located next to Punta del Moral's fishing harbour, this is the perfect place to enjoy the freshest fish and seafood. Its rice dishes, octopus, king prawns and traditional fried seafood are among the restaurant's most popular specialities.

La Abacería de la Sal

An excellent choice for sharing tapas with family and friends. The menu features Iberian cured meats, artisan cheeses, gourmet toasts and a wide selection of tapas and sharing plates. Located at Marina Isla Canela.

Restaurante A3-Casa Manolo

Traditional seafood cuisine with a creative twist. A3 Casa Manolo perfectly combines classic Andalusian recipes with innovative cooking techniques, creating dishes that respect tradition while offering something different. Located on Paseo del Pinillo, in Marina Isla Canela, Punta del Moral. Advance booking is recommended.

La Bocana Del Moral

Renowned for its warm hospitality, efficient service and pleasant terrace overlooking the marina. An excellent choice for anyone looking to enjoy high-quality seafood cuisine in a beautiful setting.

La Pamela

One of Punta del Moral's most popular restaurants, famous for its traditional cuisine based on fresh fish, seafood and rice dishes. Guests particularly appreciate the outstanding quality of the ingredients, the welcoming family atmosphere and the attentive service. Recommended dishes include: Seafood rice, brothy rice, grilled king prawns, fried cuttlefish.

Paradise

Located directly on Isla Canela Beach. A stylish beachfront restaurant offering spectacular ocean views, contemporary décor and a lively terrace for drinks. Fresh, modern and vibrant, it stands out for its varied menu, beautifully presented dishes and carefully selected wine list.

Simón

One of Punta del Moral's most traditional restaurants. Its menu showcases the very best of Huelva's cuisine, featuring fresh fish, seafood, homemade rice dishes and traditional stews prepared with locally sourced ingredients. Classic recipes are combined with more contemporary creations while always preserving the authentic flavours of the Andalusian coast. The quality of the produce and the friendly service make Simón one of the area's essential culinary experiences.

La Cala

A seafood restaurant where fresh fish and shellfish take centre stage. Specialities include grilled octopus, noodles with octopus and a variety of dishes prepared using locally sourced ingredients. Its relaxed atmosphere, attentive service and combination of traditional recipes with original creations make it a favourite among locals and visitors alike.

Bar Pescao

One of Punta del Moral's best places to enjoy charcoal-grilled fish. Fresh fish from the daily catch is cooked over charcoal, with favourites including turbot, sea bass and clams, all prepared using top-quality local ingredients.

La Puerta Ancha Tapas

One of Ayamonte's most charming tapas restaurants. Traditional Andalusian cooking meets creative tapas in a beautiful setting with a picturesque Andalusian courtyard. Highlights include tuna, cod, traditional stews and an excellent wine selection.



Dining in Portugal

"As you know, we are right on the Portuguese border."

One of the most enjoyable excursions is crossing the Guadiana River by ferry from Ayamonte to Vila Real de Santo António. The crossing is inexpensive and departures operate every 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the time of day. The ferry arrives just a five-minute walk from Vila Real's town centre, making it ideal for shopping and lunch.

Portuguese cuisine is generally simple, authentic and delicious, with many dishes prepared over charcoal or on the grill. Excellent choices include: seafood rice, razor clam rice, lobster rice, bacalhau (Portugal's famous cod dishes), cataplana, the Algarve's traditional seafood and fish stew cooked in its distinctive copper pot.

One tip to remember: Portuguese portions are often very generous. A rice dish ordered for three people is usually enough for four or even five diners.



Restaurante O Infante Panorâmico

Located at Praia Verde, around 20 km from the Spanish border. Perched on top of a hill, it enjoys spectacular panoramic views over Cabeço Beach. Best visited at lunchtime to fully appreciate the scenery. Their signature speciality is the famous Zapateira (stuffed spider crab). Mid-range prices.

Restaurante Casa de comidas O cisne.

Located in Vila Real de Santo António. Without doubt, one of the best places in the area for Portuguese charcoal-grilled chicken. This is a traditional Portuguese restaurant where you'll also find grilled meats, fresh fish and other regional specialities. Personally... I simply love it! Located near the Vila Real Lighthouse
Rua Padre Jorge Leiria, 8

Chiringuito Pezinhos na Areia

Located on Praia Verde, just below O Infante Panorâmico. One of my personal favourites. Alongside excellent fresh fish, don't miss the spaghetti with clams or the king prawns served with curry rice. A wonderful setting for a romantic dinner by the sea.

Restaurante Costa.

Located in Fábrica, a small fishing hamlet just beyond Cacela Velha, right by the beach. I've enjoyed several of their rice dishes over the years, and they have always been excellent. A curious fact: the impressive villa on the left belongs to former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who is married to Teresa Heinz (of the Heinz family). As she has Portuguese roots, they chose this beautiful part of the Algarve to build their home. The area is also home to Claude Picasso, son of Pablo Picasso. Mid-range prices.

Restaurante Típico Casa Velha.

Located in the picturesque village of Cacela Velha. Their lobster rice is outstanding, but the real attraction is the setting itself. Cacela Velha sits on a cliff overlooking Manta Rota Beach and the Ria Formosa Natural Park, offering one of the Algarve's most spectacular panoramic views. Take time to wander through its charming streets before finishing your visit with an unforgettable lunch. Mid-range prices.



Discover the Algarve

Until 31 December 2024, the Algarve motorway had an 'electronic' toll system which involved linking a credit card to the car's number plate – a system that does not exist in Spain. Fortunately, since 1 January 2025, the toll has been abolished and use of the motorway, from its start at the Ayamonte International Bridge / Castro Marim to its end in Lagos, is free... simply cross the bridge, drive on and enjoy the journey.

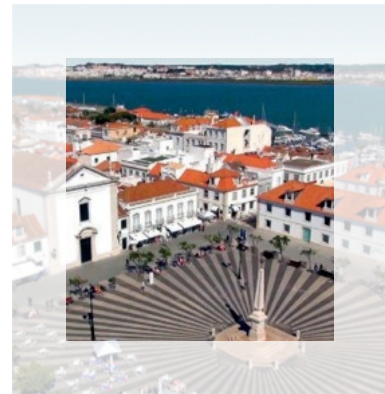
If you're planning to go as far as Tavira, I recommend taking the second exit and continuing along the N-125; the journey won't take you more than 25 minutes and it's more enjoyable than going directly to Tavira via the motorway.

Between Tavira and Vila Real de Santo António – the town just before Ayamonte – there are several places of interest.

For a start, it's a great experience to cross the border by ferry, crossing the Guadiana*. Ferries run every hour. You can take the ferry there and return via the motorway.

Vila Real de Santo António is a shopping town; it has a lovely square, shops... and not much else.

Following the N125 from Vila Real or from the second motorway exit, Altura-Montegordo, you'll pass several roundabouts; after the one leading into Vilanova de Cacela, carry on along the A-road and keep an eye out for the turn-off to Cacela Velha on the left. The beach you can see opposite Cacela Velha is Mantarota; it's very pretty and marks the start of the Ria Formosa National Park, which stretches all the way to Faro.



Manta Rota Beach. To get there, as I mentioned earlier, take the second exit off the motorway and follow the N125 towards Faro.

Keep an eye out because, after about 4 km, on the left, there's a sign pointing to Manta Rota. Turn off there and carry on to the end; there's a car park and a large open space with walkways leading down to the beach. If you walk along the beach towards Faro, you'll enter the Ria Formosa Natural Park.

The beach along this stretch is like a sandy spit with the Ria Formosa behind it. Continuing along the N125, you'll reach Tavira and see its Roman bridge. It's lovely to stroll through the town centre, climb up to the castle and have a drink in one of its squares.

Tavira isn't situated right on the coast, as the Ria Formosa lies between the town and the sea. There are two magnificent beaches in Tavira.

Ilha de Tavira: you drive to a car park and take a small boat across to the beach (there are beach bars on the beach where you can eat).

Praia do Barril: From the centre of Tavira, head towards Santa Luzia (a great place to eat fish, especially octopus) and carry on to Pedras do Rei (a 10-minute drive in total). You park your car and there's a little train that takes you to the beach in 5 minutes... It's quite a curiosity.

Tavira also has a new shopping centre, though it isn't very big.

Alcoutim is a small village with all the charm of the Portuguese Algarve.



To get to Fuzeta: From Fuzeta, you can take small boats. Take motorway exit 2 onto the N125 towards Tavira; drive round Tavira on the outskirts, go round the roundabout with the ship's sail on it and continue along the N125... Pass Luz de Tavira and then, on the left-hand side, there is a turn-off signposted 'Fuzeta'. This is the harbour where you can catch the water taxis to the islands.

If you decide to carry on to Faro, you'll need to follow the N125, which leads into the city. It's the capital of the Algarve. It has a walled old town and a cathedral. There's a large shopping centre and little else to see.

To get to Alcoutim and Mértola:

Cross the bridge and take Exit 1. Follow signs for Beja, then take the first exit off the Beja road, following signs for Campo Golf and Junqueira. You'll pass the little village of Azinhal (with the 'A Prova' bakery) a few kilometres on; take the junction signposted for Foz de Odeleite and stay on that road, which runs alongside the river, all the way to Alcoutim. Enjoy the drive along this road, which feels like something out of a 1970s period film. I find it a thoroughly relaxing trip.

From Alcoutim to Mértola, you can't go wrong – it's signposted. (It's about 78 km from Ayamonte to Mértola, but it doesn't take long... If there's one thing the roads of the Algarve and Alentejo have going for them, it's the lack of traffic.)



Further afield, places well worth seeing.

Lagos (a stylish, uncrowded tourist area), Sagres (a historic town, as it was the starting point for the Portuguese explorers), and near Sagres, Cape St Vincent (the southernmost point of Portugal). The beaches that feature in all the promotional photos of the Algarve.



Benagil, the cathedral of the Algarve

With rocks jutting out of the water and cliffs forming coves. They're in the Lago area, and the most famous is Praia da Marinha. It's about 130 km from Ayamonte.

Albufeira is the Portuguese equivalent of Benidorm or Lloret de Mar, with bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

Vilamoura is the Portuguese equivalent of Marbella; it's essentially a luxury marina and golf courses.

Silves is a prime example of a town in the Algarve's inland region. Typical dishes include: seafood rice, fish or seafood cataplanas (a traditional cooking method using special 'pots') and cod, which is prepared in many different ways as it is the national dish.

Portuguese patisseries are also a reason to visit Portugal. I'm just mentioning this out of curiosity, or in case you have a couple of hours to spare from Ayamonte and fancy popping over for a café con leche and a sweet treat. There's a patisserie in Azinhal called A Prova. Its pastries are highly regarded and reasonably priced. Take the first motorway exit towards Beja; after about 7 km, you'll see the sign for Azinhal.



General map of Isla Canela



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

"To keep up to date with all the latest culinary news, events and recommendations in Isla Canela, we invite you to follow us on our social media channels and visit our official website. There you'll find up-to-date information on the best places to eat and things to do to make the most of your experience in the area."

