



**DUCO TRAVEL SUMMIT HOSTS INAUGURAL EDITION OF
DUCO SPAIN & PORTUGAL IN MARBELLA, CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF
DISCOVERY UNDER THE THEME 'DUCO EXPLORERS'**

The first edition of the immersive travel event focused on high-end hospitality in Spain and Portugal took place in Marbella from October 13th to 16th, 2025.

Inspired by the courage and curiosity of those who once looked beyond the horizon, [DUCO Travel Summit](#) has successfully concluded the inaugural edition of [DUCO Spain & Portugal](#), connecting Spain and Portugal's top hospitality providers with the world's leading English-speaking travel advisors.

The immersive travel event, in its inaugural edition, brought together over 200 hoteliers, DMCs, and travel experience providers representing 175 esteemed Spanish and Portuguese brands, alongside 125 leading travel advisors and influential travel experts from key English-speaking markets, including the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and other destinations, in exclusive venues across Marbella.

With DUCO, Spain and Portugal are now on the calendar of the world's finest travel events focused on a single destination. Attendees immersed themselves each day through enriching twenty-minute appointments with DUCO Spain & Portugal's selected participants, followed by captivating evening events that deepened their understanding and connection to the destination.

DUCO is proudly sponsored by the Andalucía Tourist Board, Luxury Travel by Costa del Sol Tourist Board and Marbella Tourism.

Hosted events in this edition included:

- Press Program was held at Finca Cortesin Hotel, followed by the Registration & Standing Cocktail at Finca Cortesin Beach Club.
- The Opening Party took place at the gardens of Marbella Club Hotel, gathering participants for an evening that celebrated connection and discovery in a setting emblematic of Andalusian charm.
- Scheduled Appointments were hosted at Anantara Villa Padierna Palace, where attendees engaged in meaningful one-to-one meetings throughout the week. In partnership with The Leading Hotels of the World, a dedicated area welcomed Exhibiting affiliates, creating a refined environment for business and collaboration.
- Among the experiences featured at the venue, Portuguese textile brand Lameirinho presented a mockup of a high-end hotel suite showcasing its premium linens and home textiles. Quinta do Paral offered tastings of its Superior red and white wines, while BLESS Hotel Madrid and Marbella Club

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Hotel delighted guests with signature experiences, including an artisanal jamón cutting presentation by a female cortadora and iconic cocktails served at The Leading Hotels of the World exclusive area.

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- DUCO Spain & Portugal 2025 also featured a three-day Press Program for contributors from international, Spanish, and Portuguese media. The program began with a Welcome Press Dinner at Kimpton Los Monteros Marbella, followed by meetings with Exhibitors at Finca Cortesin Hotel and Cocktail at Finca Cortesin Beach Club. It concluded with a visit to Anantara Villa Padierna Palace and a lunch by the sea at Chiringuito Puente Romano.

DUCO Spain & Portugal gathered a carefully selected group of Exhibitors, including distinguished members of The Leading Hotels of the World, Relais & Châteaux, Preferred Hotels & Resorts, and Small Luxury Hotels of the World. For the full list of Exhibitors, please refer to the [Exhibitors List](#).

DUCO Spain & Portugal 2025 Awards took place at the Anantara Amphitheatre, honoring outstanding hoteliers, experience providers, and properties, with winners recognized across five categories:

Best Spanish Hotelier

Thomas Moons, Area Managing Director Spain & Portugal | La Residencia, a Belmond Hotel, Mallorca

Best Portuguese Hotelier

Mafalda de Bragança, Commercial Director | Six Senses Douro Valley

Unique Experience Provider

Made for Spain & Portugal | DMC

Estrella de España (Best Spanish Hotel)

Marbella Club Hotel | Marbella, Andalusia

Joia de Portugal (Best Portuguese Hotel)

Six Senses Douro Valley | Lamego, Douro Valley

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The second edition of DUCO Spain & Portugal will take place in Marbella from October 18th to 22nd, 2026, under the theme DUCO Cantares, an invitation to travel through poetry, rhythm, and memory.

DUCO Spain & Portugal embraces a more digitally oriented approach, extending beyond the annual gathering. [DUCO Spain & Portugal](#) serves as an ongoing showcase of these two culturally rich destinations, offering regional highlights. In parallel, DUCO Spain & Portugal remains a year-round platform for inspiration, exclusive insights, and the finest travel experiences. Stay connected via [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

During the summit, the DUCO App will provide attendees with a comprehensive digital platform for networking, scheduling, and event information.

Learn more about the program [here](#)

Learn more about the sponsors [here](#)

About DUCO Travel Summit

Founded in 2016 by Carolina Perez, DUCO Travel Summit is a destination-oriented initiative and the first travel summit of its kind to focus on a single destination. It serves as both a curated event and a communication channel for promoting destinations through marketing actions and digital platforms.

DUCO Travel Summit organizes DUCO Italy, an annual event established in Florence in 2018. Since 2024, DUCO Italy has been held in Milan, while DUCO France continues to take place annually in Paris. DUCO has also announced the launch of DUCO Spain & Portugal, with its inaugural edition taking place in Marbella, Spain, in October 2025.

The DUCO concept is the result of the passion of the company's founder, Carolina Perez, who is of Italian heritage and grew up in Brazil. After leading the family business, Teresa Perez Tours, in São Paulo for 16 years, Carolina created and founded Travelweek São Paulo, which was acquired by ILTM Reed Exhibitions in 2013 and rebranded as ILTM Latin America.

To learn more about DUCO Travel Summit including DUCO Italy, DUCO France and DUCO Spain & Portugal, please visit ducotravelsummit.com.