

DRINK LOLA & SIMON**RESTAURANT'S PORTUGAL TRIP IS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE TASTE**

- ▶ Couple who run Lola & Simon in Hammersmith organise tasting sessions
- ▶ They say loyal customers are more like friends

CAROLINE BUTCHER

A PAIR of popular Hammersmith restaurateurs will teach customers their ruby from their tawny during a whirlwind port-tasting trip to Portugal.

Kirstin Hadley and Nico Curio, the winning combination between Lola & Simon in King Street, will accompany about 16 of their most loyal customers to the vineyards of the Porto region from October 2-5.

Since opening in September 2007, the charismatic duo have attracted a legion of faithful diners with their brand of delectable Argentinian and Kiwi-fusion food, fine wines, intimate



REWARDS: Nico Curio and Kirstin Hadley are taking loyal customers from their Lola & Simon restaurant on a port-tasting trip
PICTURE BY LEIGH QUINNELL

surroundings and friendly service.

Now they're going one step further, taking their 'inner core' of customers back to Quinta do Vallado, a regular supplier of tawny port for the restaurant and the site of a surprise birthday trip for Kirstin earlier this year.

"The place where we were staying was so lovely and really beautiful, and

we were blown away by the quality of the food. It was so nice that we wanted to take more people there to show them," Kirstin said.

The holiday party will try a tasting session at another of the restaurant's regular suppliers, Quinta do Infantado, on October 3, as well as getting their feet messy with some traditional grape-crushing in the evening.

We had such a great experience last time and felt so welcome that we wanted to introduce other people to the area," Kirstin said.

Nico added: "I wouldn't describe the people who are going just as customers – they have become very close to us and now they're our friends."

The restaurant closed for a week last month, from August 10-16, for some minor refurbishments, and is planning to unveil a new back garden for customers within the next month.

● *Lola & Simon is at 278 King Street. For more information call 020 8563 0300 or visit www.lolaandsimon.co.uk*



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