



Media kit - NH Collection Porto Batalha



An old family palace

The Porto of the 21st century is housed within the walls of a palace with almost three hundred years of history. Where there used to be lavish balls and some period intrigue, today there is a modern hotel that has become a new emblem of the city.

A knight of the Portuguese Royal House, José Anastácio da Silva Fonseca, is the origin of it all. He and his wife Doña Joana Meireles Guedes de Carvalho choose the top of a steep hill to locate what will be their new residence. In an era – the eighteenth century – of luxury and ostentation, the house of one of the wealthiest families in the city had to show its wealth and surpass the others in splendor. And they succeeded. The building, with palatial proportions, exuded luxury in all its dimensions.

Soon, the halls of the "Casa dos Guedes" would become the meeting place of Portuguese high society. Spectacular dances were organized in them that were a reference in the city. But in a turbulent time politically, commercial agreements, intrigues and some conspiracy were also forged under its roofs.

In just two generations, the luxury, opulence and splendor of gold leaf and velvet curtains gave way to a makeshift field hospital. The civil war that ravaged the country caused the palace to be occupied by one of the warring sides during the so-called "Siege of Porto". The Guedes da Silva family had to abandon him and take refuge in their "quinta" on the outskirts of the city. Meanwhile, the rooms of the Casa dos Guedes, converted into common spaces for soldiers, would see illustrious characters from Portuguese history such as Bernardo de Sá Nogueira de Figueiredo who, after the war, would be head of the Portuguese government on five occasions.

At the end of the war, during the reign of Maria II, the Palácio da Batalha was returned to its owner. It had been 10 years since the occupation and the "Siege of Porto" and the city had changed. The family rehabilitated and modernized the building, but later they would abandon it definitively to rent it to the government of Portugal, which installed the communications palace in it. Only a few years later, this rental would become a definitive sale and the Palácio da Batalha, one of the icons of the city's history as a nerve centre of communications.

The hotel

Nestled in the heart of Porto, in front of the São João National Theatre, is currently located the [NH Collection Porto Batalha hotel](#). In a golden triangle that includes the Rua de Santa Catarina – the main commercial artery – the mythical Galerie de Paris – known for its leisure and gastronomy offer – and the more "trendy" and cultural Rua de Miguel Bombarda.

In the shadow of a Portuguese neoclassical façade, a stunning terrace on Batalha Square welcomes the guest. Its lobby, with nods to Scandinavian minimalism and the classic elegance of the 50s, is a versatile space conceived as a meeting point rather than a place of passage. Three large stone arches, rescued from the old entrance of the palace, welcome the visitor by merging history and modernity. The contemporary contrast is marked by the relationship between an imposing block of marble – which serves as a counter – and the warmth of the wooden walls.

Services and facilities

Batalha Square is one of Porto's liveliest places, but the 107 rooms at the NH Collection Porto Batalha are the realm of tranquility. In them, the interior design breathes sobriety and elegance in equal parts. Here it is the different shades of grey on the walls and their combination with the white of the floors and furniture that mark the aesthetics.

Here again, it is the light that is the main protagonist. Large windows, or balconies, open onto the city allowing clarity to be part of the decoration. At night the main lighting marks its presence without being obvious. Warm and concealed, sometimes in backlit profiles, sometimes in floor or table lamps. The strategically placed lamps turn the rooms into the most welcoming corners of the hotel. The gentle caress of a finger is enough to turn on the luminaires, thanks to the touch technology they have. Likewise, a small tribute to the old communications palace takes the form of a three-dimensional stamp on the headboard of the bed.

The ground floor hides a small gem for sports and body care lovers. A fully equipped gym – fully equipped with Technogym machines – treatment cabins, jacuzzi, sauna, steam bath and a heated pool with hydrotherapy. Among the star services offered by the hotel are an extensive menu of massages, fitness classes and a personal trainer service (on request).

Gastronomic offer

The "who's who" of Porto gathers, at sunset, on the terrace of NH Collection Porto Batalha around oysters accompanied by the most coveted gin and tonics in the city. But in the capital of "Porto-tonic", this drink, made from white port as an alternative to gin, has made the hotel a reference.

The Tabu Fine Cuisine & Gastrô Bar restaurant, located near the lobby, has conquered the hearts of Porto residents and visitors with its cocktail menu and its important Port wine cellar. In addition, it offers a proposal full of nods to local gastronomy and with clear maritime touches, such as cod with green corn puree or roasted monkfish with basil and roasted aubergine.

Meetings & Events

NH Collection Porto Batalha also has four fully equipped meeting rooms that can accommodate up to 110 people. Plasma screens, LCD projectors, video and teleconferencing equipment, a long list of services that are completed with secretarial and translation services, furniture rental, floral arrangements, music or shows.

