

## 'FADO' UP YOUR LIFE! LISBON'S SOULFUL SOUND JOINS THE STARS OF NOS ALIVE

*Leading music festival will feature a fado stage for second year running*



**20<sup>th</sup> December 2016** – Having recently celebrated five years since its inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list, [fado](#) music will once again be included in NOS Alive next year after featuring for the first time in the festival's 10-year history in July 2016. The inclusion of Lisbon's most distinctive sound alongside headline acts including the Foo Fighters, Alt J and Depeche Mode shows that *fado* is more 'alive' than ever as a new generation of singers – known as “young *fadistas*” – revitalise the iconic art form, placing it at the forefront of world music.

Haunting and poetic, *fado* is considered as one of the purest expressions of Lisbon's 'soul'. Believed to have its origins in the sorrow felt by the sailors and their families who were separated by Portugal's explorations around the globe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the mournful music of *fado* was inscribed on the [UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) list in November 2011.

Popularised internationally by the great Amália Rodrigues (the “Queen of *fado*”) in the 50-60's, a group of young *fadistas* have placed *fado* music back on the international music map. These young artists include [Mariza](#), one of the nominees for “Best Portuguese Language Contemporary Pop Album” in last month's Latin Grammys; [Ana Moura](#), who has performed with Mick Jagger and Prince; and [Gisela João](#), one of today's most exciting voices. In July 2017 *fado* will have its own stage at [NOS Alive](#), one of Portugal's top music festivals, for the second year in a row.

Experiencing a *fado* performance is a must for all visitors to Lisbon. The narrow streets of Alfama, the city's oldest district and most associated with this iconic song, is home to numerous “*fado houses*”. Moving performances, whose themes vary from love to death and from happiness to loneliness, are accompanied by the melancholy chords of the Portuguese guitar.



Alfama is also home to the [Fado Museum](#), the best place to discover everything about *fado* and the Portuguese guitar. Here, visitors can learn about the history and evolution of Lisbon's native song and take part in a one-hour group workshop which concludes with participants singing their own *fados* – no embarrassment allowed. If they are really confident, visitors can then head to the Mouraria neighbourhood, next to Alfama, and try one of the houses offering “*fado vadio*” or ‘amateur’, where anybody can stand up and start singing!

For more information, ideas and inspiration on visiting Lisbon, please go to [www.visitlisboa.com](http://www.visitlisboa.com)

From the UK, direct flights to Lisbon operate from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Bristol with TAP Portugal, British Airways, easyJet, Ryanair and Monarch. From Ireland, direct flights to Lisbon operate from Dublin with Aer Lingus and Ryanair.

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### **About Lisbon**

Portugal's national capital, Lisbon, boasts one of the longest histories, warmest climates and bustling nightlife of any major European city alongside its dramatic location sprawled along seven hills overlooking the river Tagus and the country's west coast. Famed for its year-round sunshine and beauty, Lisbon's grand architecture dazzles and its old-world charm mingles with chic streets, galleries, lively nightlife and a centre which gives way to sandy beaches just minutes away. It is also one of the most affordable capitals in Europe, perfect for a captivating city break or short haul escape. [www.visitlisboa.com](http://www.visitlisboa.com)

### **About Turismo de Lisboa**

Turismo de Lisboa is a non-profit organisation established through an alliance of public and private bodies operating in the tourist sector. It has over 800 associated members. Since its inception in 1998, the main objective of this association is to improve and increase the promotion of Lisbon as a tourist destination and therefore enhance the quality and competitiveness of the city.