

* Made in Portugal: Portuguese ceramics

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While I love all things made in Portugal I have a particular soft spot for Portuguese handmade ceramics. There are simply so many incredible small artisans and bigger factories producing truly beautiful, high quality and affordable plates, jugs, cups, bowls and more.

In this guide I've listed a bunch of **my favourite Portuguese ceramic brands**, plus any **cool shops and factories** around the country where you can drop in to **buy ceramics at the source**. There's nothing cooler than watching the potter throw a jug together before your eyes.

* Bordallo Pinheiro

* I'm obsessed with the whimsical world of this 19th-century Portuguese ceramics brand. Started in 1884 by cartoonist-turned-ceramicist Rafael Bordallo Pinheiro, somehow his tableware is still on trend some 130 plus years later. I am obsessed with cabbage-shaped bowls, giant tomato tureens, fun fish vases and fruity pineapple plates. If you want to add fun to the table, look for the colourful and eccentric pieces from Bordallo Pinheiro.

* **The best Portuguese
ceramic brands**



* Casa Cubista

- * The duo behind Casa Cubista has taken the traditional terracotta ceramics from the Alentejo and made it modern with bold stripes and splatters. The range is fun, colourful and I like to mix it with Bordallo Pinheiro for an old-new feel.
- * Where to shop: Casa Cubista stocked at D'Olival in Lisbon (and a huge range of amazing olive oil) plus other stockists around the world.



*Anna Westerlund

*I love the organic shapes and feel of Anna Westerlund's ceramics and the way she often finishes her ceramic pieces with other materials like beads, jute and thread. Made by hand on the outskirts of Lisbon, you can shop her work at Together by Anna Westerlund in the heart of the city.



*Vista Alegre

- *This is Portugal's answer to the UK's Royal Daulton. Since 1824 this Portuguese ceramic brand has been making fine porcelain and bone china pieces at its factory near the city of Aveiro. Apparently the President of Portugal, plus the White House and some royal families across Europe use the tableware.



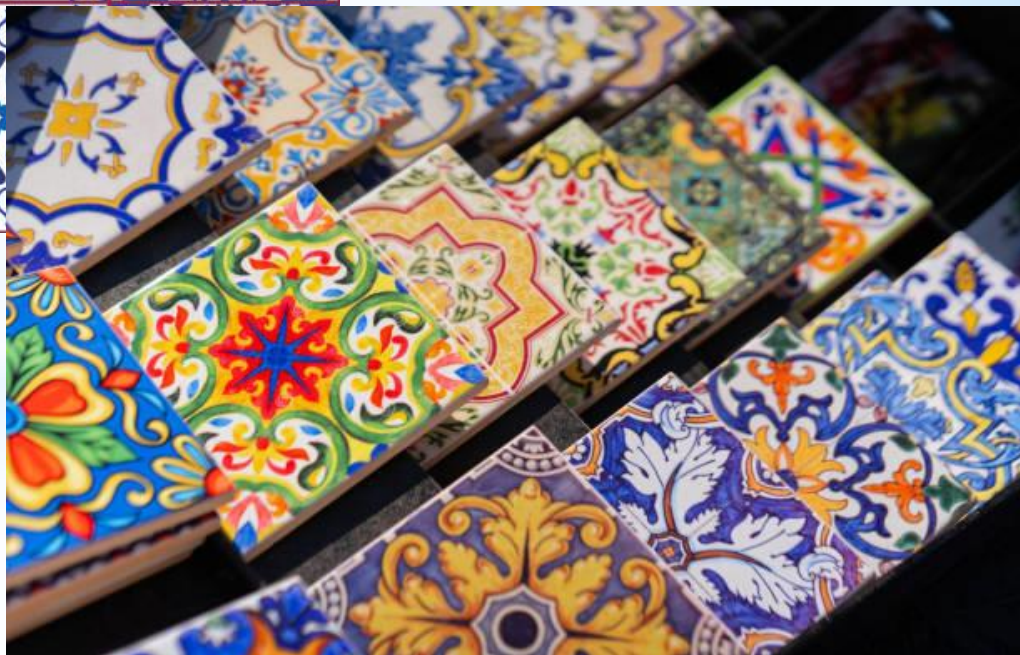
* Cerâmica Edgar Picas

- * If you've been to Portugal you will have seen a huge amount of terracotta pottery, some of it very rustic. The Picas family have been master artisans of this Barcelos-style red clay pottery for generations, but it was only in 2009 that Edgar founded this company to preserve the traditions and knowledge of his parents and grandparents. This sort of pottery is brilliant for cooking - you can use it in the oven, on hot stoves, or for decoration.



- * Like [Fado](#) and codfish, blue and white azulejo tiles are a Portuguese classic. These glazed blue ceramic tiles from the 14th century decorate the streets, buildings, and monuments of Portuguese cities. The azulejo is also commonly displayed in Portuguese homes, as well as train stations, restaurants, and fountains.
- * They are not just decorative, they usually tell a story and chronicle major cultural aspects of Portuguese history. Traditionally, the azulejo told stories of Portuguese navigators and their voyages around the world. Churches also used azulejo to tell stories about saints, as being able to buy a book was a privilege to many. Even though the iconic ajuzelo is Portuguese, the style has been heavily influenced by Islamic and Italian cultures.
- * More modern depicts images of animals such as tigers or the geometric expressions of Portuguese artist Maria Keil who passed in 2012. Maria Keil made the iconic ajulezo that cover the walls of Lisbon's metro stations in the 1950s.

* Portugal, The Country of Azulejo Tiles



* PORTO

- * Azulejo tiles are an iconic part of Porto's culture and history. There are many places across the city where you can find these. One of the best is Porto's cathedral from the 18th century. Although the cathedral is dark and gothic, inside the cloisters you can find beautiful blue and white azulejo. São Bento Railway Station is another classic place to find this ancient art. The station was built in 1903 and is covered with over 20,000 azulejo tiles, made by Jorge Colaço. His work covers an area of over 550 m² and depicts important moments of Portuguese history including the Discoveries. The Church of Saint Ildefonso, built in 1739, is another must-see decorated in Jorge Colaço's tiles. These tiles were only added to the church by the artist in 1932. There are over 11,000 white and blue tiles covering the church's exterior. There are many other places where you can find azulejo tiles in Porto such as Casa da Musica and Ribeira Negra panel.

* Where to Find Portuguese Azulejo Tiles

