

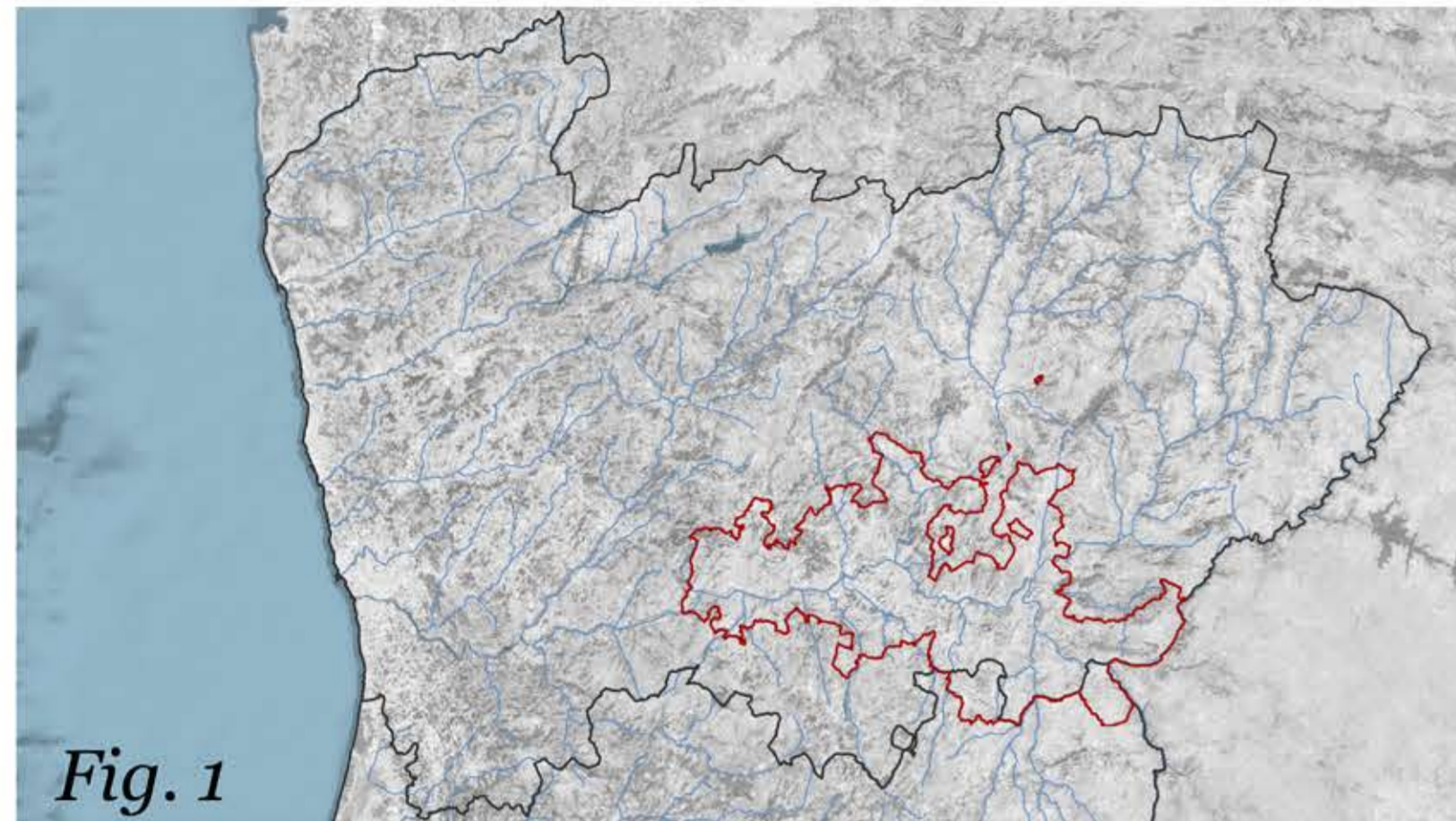
# Concentrating Landscape Value: Planning the Route of Douro Wine Region Recreational Estates

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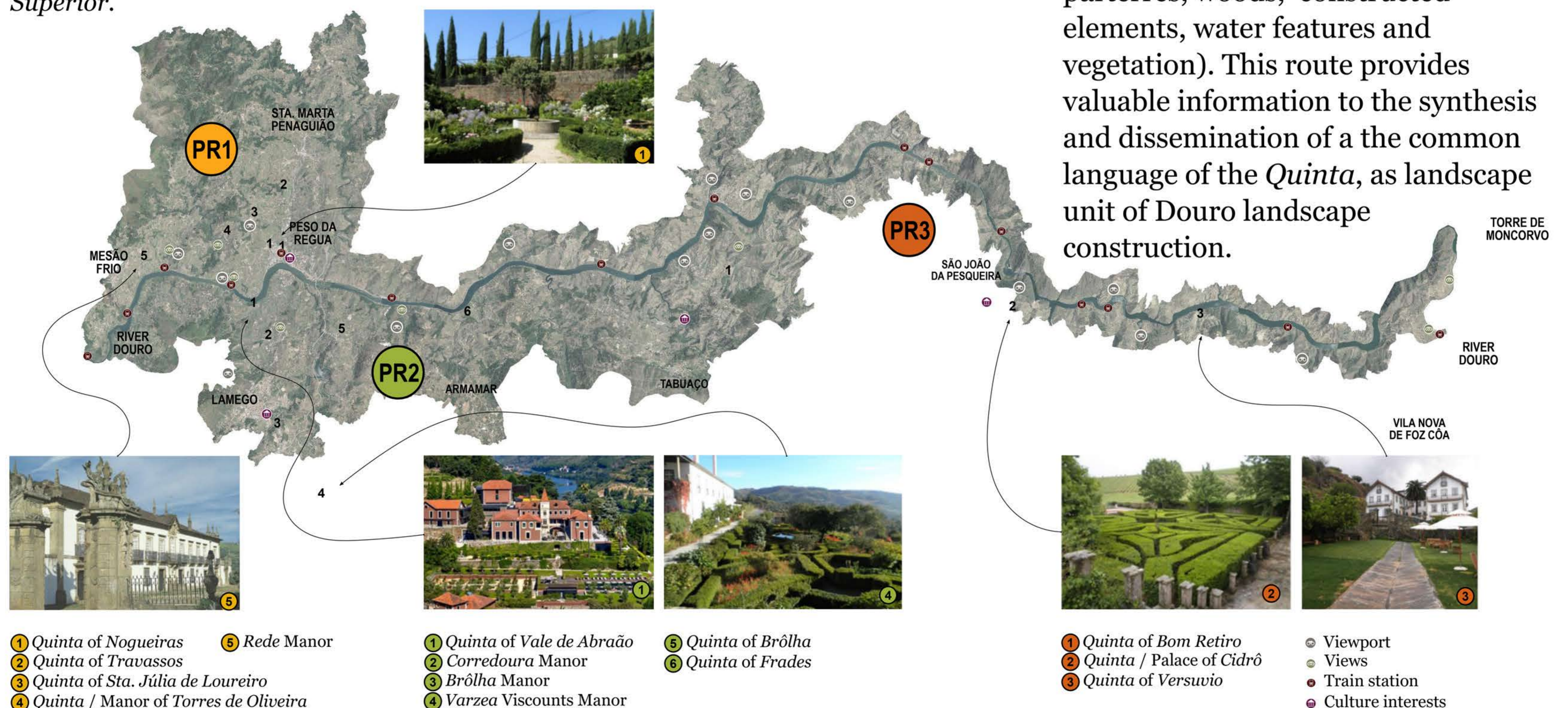
## Introduction

Demarcated in 1756, the Douro Wine Region is the oldest regulated wine region in the World (Fig. 1).



Port wine is produced within this boundary, in the landscape of higher river Douro vineyards, which has been honoured UNESCO's World Heritage, since 2001, recognized as cultural, evolving and living landscape. Its integrity and authenticity are well revealed in its landscape pattern, which includes a distinctive mosaic composed of extensive vineyards, Mediterranean forests and groves, green network of corridors, vernacular stone walls, villages and its typical estates called *Quintas*.

Fig. 2 - Route of Douro Wine Region Recreation Quintas (Estates); division into 3 trails: PR1 Baixo Corgo North; PR2 Baixo Corgo South; PR3 Cima Corgo / Douro Superior.



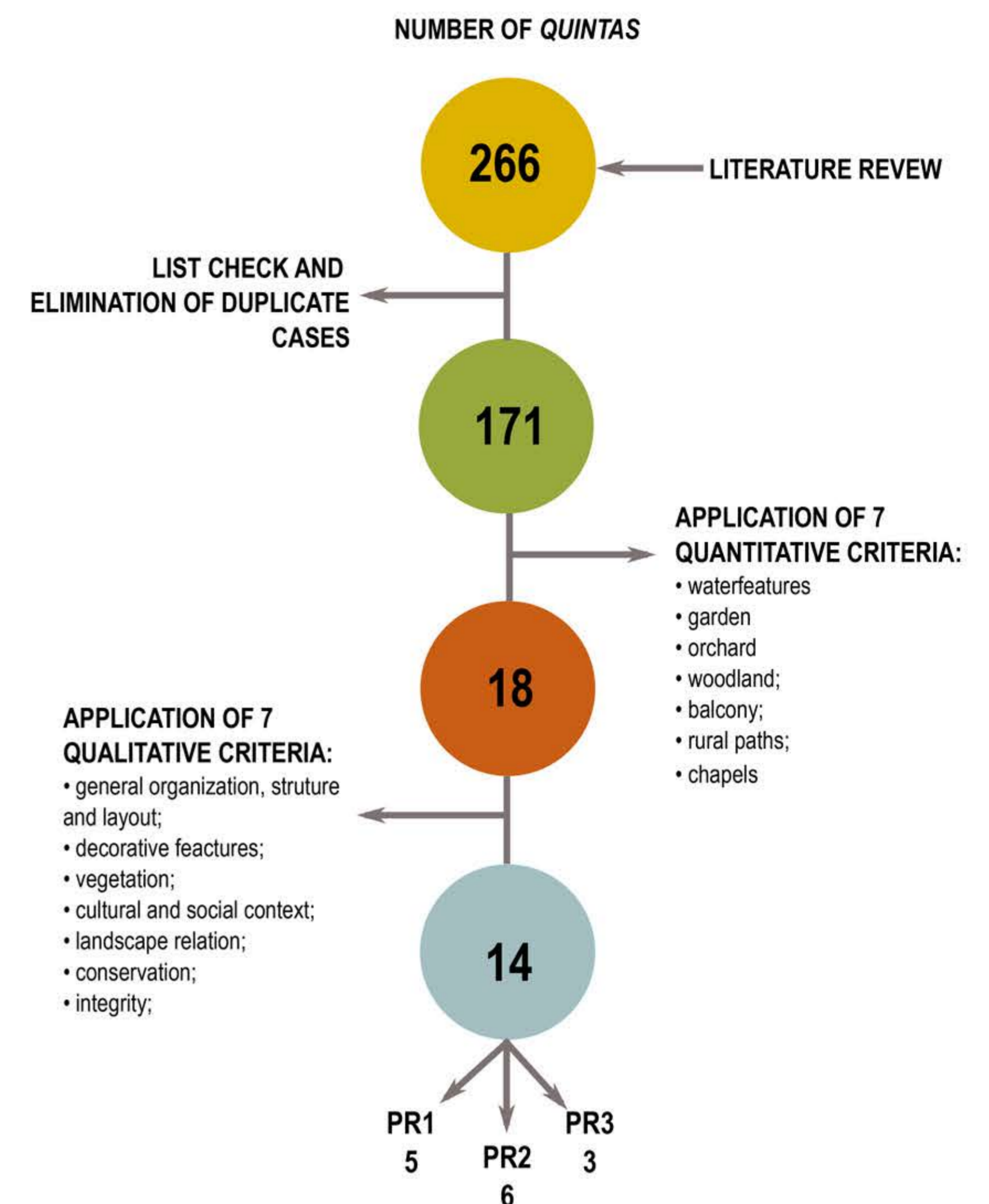
The productive and recreational quality of these *Quintas*, as “cells” of landscape change, is the object of this study. Since that most of these estates aren't solely associated with wine production, but stand out as places of delight, they are seen as recreation estates, where the testimony of the Portuguese Garden Art can be documented, reflecting a variety of cultures, movements and authors.

## Objectives

Therefore, with this research, the authors aim to plan a landscape route of recreational *Quintas*, able to reveal their superlative value in the landscape context, to promote the quality of landscape fruition and to deliver a tourism product of excellence.

## Methodology

This research started with a literature review and landscape characterization, followed by an inventory that produced a list of 266 sites, and a case-study selection method, which allowed a collection of 171 sites for a wide-ranging analysis, and a final set of 14 recreational *Quintas* for in-depth study.



## Result

As a result, a landscape route with three itineraries was designed and documented. This route is seen as a way to value conservation and dissemination of the recreational *Quinta*. The selected estates revealed to be high quality examples of the Douro Region *Quintas*. They also show a great degree of integrity and aesthetic value, whether related to the manor, or their gardens (formal parterres, woods, constructed elements, water features and vegetation). This route provides valuable information to the synthesis and dissemination of a the common language of the *Quinta*, as landscape unit of Douro landscape construction.

