

A warm welcome from the Ambassador of Portugal

I am delighted, for the third time, to welcome you to the Portuguese Embassy in this very special occasion. Once again, we will have the opportunity to taste some of Portugal's best wines.

I sincerely hope you enjoy the diversity and quality of the wines that Jamie Goode has chosen for you today.

I would like to thank Jamie for the difficult task of selecting ONLY 50 wines, as we have much more, of course!

With best wishes.

António Santana Carlos

An Introduction from Jamie Goode

In February 2008 I was thrilled to be named journalist of the year for Portugal, and to take the baton from Simon Woods in selecting the 50 Great Portuguese wines for the 2009 tasting.

This gave me the perfect excuse to spend lots of time focusing on Portugal's wines, and making this selection has been tremendous fun, as well as a serious responsibility.

In the course of this process I have visited Portugal five times, and tried some fantastic wines, both from established producers and also some newcomers.

Five years ago, when the first top 50 tasting was held, I think that Richard Mayson had a somewhat easier job than I have now: Portuguese wines have come a long way during this time, and I think that Portugal is now one of the most exciting and dynamic wine-producing countries in Europe.

Choosing just 50 great wines has been a difficult job, and to be as fair as possible to all producers, I haven't had any special rules – I have just tried to choose my personal top 50.

Value for money was not a consideration in this selection. Portugal has strong domestic demand for its best wines, and this often results in prices for some wines being pushed up to high levels. It seemed unfair to penalize producers where this was the case.

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Consequently, some of these wines may be rather expensive or poorly available outside Portugal; however, I think an occasion such as this is a chance to showcase Portugal's best wines, and this is what I have tried to do.

Also in the interests of fairness, I have restricted myself to just one wine from each producer. There are several producers who could legitimately claim to have two, three, four or even five wines in this list, but then this would have made for a less diverse selection.

I have also restricted myself to vintages that are still commercially available, even though many of these wines will repay ageing, or have had better vintages in the past than the ones chosen.

I'm very excited about this line-up, and I think there are some fantastic wines here, some of which I hope will be new to you.

It's a personal selection, of course, and because Portugal makes so many superb wines, there are many producers who could feel a little hard done by in not being included. To them, I apologise.

Jamie Goode

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VINHO VERDE / MINHO

1. Giro Sol 2007, DOC Vinho Verde (W) £10

Varieties: Loureiro

Production: 5.500 bottles

Producer: Quinta de Soalheiro / Dirk Niepoort

Importer: Raymond Reynolds, Lda.

"A varietal Loureiro that's the result of a collaboration between Dirk Niepoort and leading Vinho Verde producer Soalheiro. This is a beautifully expressive white that's aromatic and light." Jamie Goode (JG)

notes

2. Soalheiro Primeiras Vinhas Colheita 2007, DOC Vinho Verde (W)

Varieties: Alvarinho

Production: 3.500 bottles

Producer: Quinta de Soalheiro

Importer: Raymond Reynolds, Lda.

"A remarkable Alvarinho from Soalheiro, for me probably the leading producer of Vinho Verde. Their regular Alvarinho is really superb; this is even better." JG

notes

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VINHO VERDE / MINHO

3. Alvarinho Anselmo Mendes 2007, DOC Vinho Verde (W)

Varieties: Alvarinho

Production: 5.000 bottles

Producer: Anselmo Mendes Vinhos Lda.

Importer: Atlantico

"Anselmo Mendes is known as 'Mr Alvarinho', and acts as a consultant winemaker for a large number of producers in the Minho. His own wines are pretty impressive, and this is a striking oddity, made with skin contact." JG

notes

4. Reguengo de Melgaço 2006, DOC Vinho Verde Alvarinho (W) £11

Varieties: Alvarinho

Production: 50.000 bottles

Producer: Reguengo de Melgaço

Importer: Hallgarten Druitt

"This wine comes from a manor house that's now a country hotel, and which has 9 hectares of vineyards. It's a relatively recent project – the first vintage was 2001." JG

notes

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VINHO VERDE / MINHO

5. Quinta do Ameal Escolha 2007, Vinho Regional Minho (W) £ TBA

Varieties: Loureiro

Production: 4.200 bottles

Producer: Quinta do Ameal

"Ameal, owned by Pedro Araújo, is a leading property in the Vinho Verde region, and focuses exclusively on the Loureiro grape variety. This, the top wine, is oaked, and it works really well." JG

notes

6. COVELA Escolha 2005, Vinho Regional Minho (R) £11.20 (Ex-Vat)

Varieties: Touriga Nacional, Cabernet Franc, Merlot

Production: 10.000 bottles

Producer: Quinta de Covela

"Covela has recently converted to biodynamics. The wines are improving all the time, and this is my favourite from a really strong line-up: a dense but fresh meaty, gravelly, fruitforward red wine. Winemaker is Rui Cunha." JG

notes

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VINHO VERDE / MINHO

7. Afros 2007, DOC Vinho Verde (R)

Varieties: 100% Vinhão

Production: 3.860 bottles

Producer: Afros Wines

"Afros Vinho Verde Tinto Vinhão 2007 Portugal Vinhão is the principal grape that red Vinho Verde is made from. It's also known as Sousao in the Douro, and its distinctive characteristic is that it is a teinturier, a red fleshed grape. This explains the incredible intensity of colour that these wines have. I don't know why the Portuguese are so apologetic about Vinhão. It's an extreme taste, with high tannins and acidity, but this is offset by the amazing fruit presence, and the youthful character of the wines. They have rough edges, but so do many interesting people. Vinhão should be cherished as something unique, delicious, and thoroughly gastronomic. This is a brilliant biodynamically grown Vinhão, with Rui Cunha as the consultant winemaker." JG

notes

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TRÁS-OS-MONTES

8. Valle Pradinhos Reserva 2005

Vinho Regional Trás-os-Montes (R) £10

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon

Production: 2.635 bottles

Producer: Maria Antónia Pinto de Azevedo Mascarenhas

"Located in the wild high country north of the Douro, Valle Pradinhos makes some really fabulous wines that seem to reflect the land they've come from really well. Rui Cunha is the consultant winemaker here." JG

notes

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DOURO

9. CONCEITO Bastardo 2007, Vinho Regional Duriense (R)

Varieties: 100% Bastardo

Production: 5.000 bottles

Producer: Conceito

Importador: Looking for an importer

"Apparently 100 years ago Bastardo and Alvarilhão were the most widely planted grapes in the

*Douro. But they don't have a lot of colour, and this is why Sousão, a teinturier (red fleshed) variety, was introduced from Vinho Verde. But Bastardo on its own, without much colour, can still have amazing flavour. Conceito are a new producer with young winemaker Rita Ferreira at the helm, and the wines are all good, but this Bastardo stood out."*JG

notes

10. Quinta do Vallado Touriga Nacional 2006, DOC Douro (R) £17

Varieties: 100% Touriga Nacional

Production: 18.000 bottles

Producer: Quinta do Vallado

Importador: Bibendum Wine Limited

*"Vallado are making some really good, fruit-driven wines, and it was hard choosing between this and Vallado's wonderful varietal Sousão, but the Touriga just shades it."*JG

notes

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DOURO

11. Quinta do Vale D. Maria 2006, DOC Douro (R) £18

Varieties: Blend of 41 varieties

Production: 19.816 bottles of 75cl and 425 Magnums

Producer: Quinta do Vale D. Maria

Importer: Sell direct to Tanners, Corney & Barrow, Waitrose, The Wine

Society, Direct Wines

"Christiano van Zeller's Quinta do Vale Dona Maria has a wonderful old vine mixed variety vineyard and makes supremely elegant wines. Sandra Tavares is the winemaker here. Look out also for the CV, a souped up version of this wine with a bit more power and oak influence."

JG

notes

12. Quinta do Crasto Vinha Maria Teresa 2006, DOC Douro (R) £34

Varieties: 100% Old Vines

Production: 6.128 - 750 ml bottles; 120 - 1500 ml bottles; 30 - 3000 ml bottles

Producer: Quinta do Crasto

Importador: Enotria Winecellars / Adnams Wines

*"This is a selection from the best part of the centenarian Maria Teresa vineyard, with yields of just 300 g per vine."*JG

notes

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DOURO

13. Quinta do Vale Meão 2005, DOC Douro (R)

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon

Production: 2.635 bottles

Producer: Quinta do Vale Meão

*"Vale Meão is a Douro 'first-growth'. Since the first vintage in 1999, this estate has made consistently brilliant wines. Even the second wine, Meandro, would make this top 50 if I hadn't already chosen the estate wine itself."*JG

notes

14. Poeira 2005, DOC Douro (R) £ 24.60

Varieties: Vinhas Velhas

Production: 14.000 bottles

Producer: Jorge Moreira

Importer: Fields Morris and Verdin

"Jorge Moreira is one of Portugal's best young winemakers, and his own project, Poeira, is at the forefront of Douro table wines. He aims to make wines of balance and elegance, rather than simply power and ripeness." JG

notes

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DOURO

15. Quinta da Romaneira 2005, DOC Douro (R) £ 27

Varieties: Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinto Cão, Tinta Roriz

Producer: Sociedade Agrícola da Romaneira

Importador: Paragon Vintners Ltd

"Romaneira is a recently opened luxury boutique hotel on the Douro. It's stunning, and stunningly expensive. Christian Seely is a partner here, and the newly revitalized property is now making some serious wines." JG

notes

16. Quinta de S. José 2005, DOC Douro (R) £18.95

Varieties: 45% Touriga Nacional, 15% Tinta Roriz & 40% Vinhas Velhas

Production: 6.000 bottles

Producer: João Brito e Cunha

Importer: Nick Dobson Wines

"This is consultant winemaker João Brito e Cunha's family property, located in front of Romaneira, with north-facing schistous slopes. I like the style he's aiming for: freshness and elegance rather than power." JG

notes

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DOURO

17. Quinta de la Rosa Vale do Inferno 2005, DOC Douro (R) £23/£25

Varieties: Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, Touriga Franca

Production: 1.000 bottles

Producer: Quinta de la Rosa

Importador: Fields Morris Verdin

"A bit of a monster of a wine from a single vineyard in a warm spot." JG

notes

18. Gouvyas Vinhas Velhas 2005, DOC Douro (R)

Varieties: Field blend with more than 15 different grapes

Production: 2.500 bottles

Producer: Bago de Touriga

Importer: Wine available for UK importer

"Bago de Touriga is a collaborative project between João Roseira and Luís Soares Duarte which began in the late 1990s. The wines have progressively got better, and both the regular Gouvyas 2005 and this Vinhas Velhas are superb." JG

notes

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DOURO**19. Quinta do Noval 2005, DOC Douro (R) £34**

Varieties: Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca & Tinto Cão

Production: 10.000 bottles

Producer: Quinta do Noval

Importador: Paragon Vintners Ltd

"Celebrated Port producer Quinta do Noval only recently started making table wines. 2004, the first vintage released, was fantastic, and the 2005 is also brilliant. Second wine Cedro do Noval is one of the Douro's best value wines." JG

notes

20. Pintas 2005, DOC Douro (R) £40

Varieties: Old vines, fields blend of 30 different indigenous grape varieties

Production: 5.000 bottles 75 CL; 100 magnum; 10 Jeroboams

Producer: Wine & Soul

Importer: Corney & Barrow

"Pintas is produced by husband and wife team Jorge Borges (ex-Niepoort winemaker, now working with Passadouro) and Sandra Tavares (winemaker at Quinta do Vale D Maria), from an old vineyard in Vale Mendiz. First vintage was 2001, and they now also have a second wine, Pintas Character, which is also excellent." JG

notes

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DOURO**21. Quinta da Gaivosa Vinha de Lordelo 2005, DOC Douro (R) £45**

Varieties: Sousão, Tinta Amarela, Touriga Nacional & Others

Production: 5.000 bottles

Producer: Alves de Sousa

Importer: Top Selection

"Domingos Alves de Sousa and his son Tiago are really hitting their stride, making some interesting wines from their vineyard holdings in the Baixo Corgo of the Douro. This is my favourite, smooth, intense red from a low yielding old vine vineyard." JG

notes

22. Duas Quintas Reserva Colheita 2005, DOC Douro (R) £29

Varieties: Touriga Nacional (80%); Tinta Barroca (5%); Touriga Franca (15%)

Production: 21.848 bottles

Producer: A. Ramos Pinto

Importador: Maisons Marques & Domaines Ltd

"Ramos Pinto's Duas Quintas Reserva is one of the Douro classics, but it's sometimes overlooked in favour of newer projects. I like the style, which combines purity, ripeness and elegance." JG

notes

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DOURO**23. Niepoort ROBUSTUS 2004, DOC Douro (R) £ 65**

Varieties: Tinta Roriz, Touriga Franca, Tinta Amerela & Others

Production: 2.734 bottles

Producer: Niepoort Vinhos

Importador: Raymond Reynolds Ltd.

"Dirk Niepoort is a legend. He's Portugal's leading winemaker, and has worked tirelessly to raise the reputation of the Douro. I could have chosen any one of his wines to make this list,

from the intense Robustus, to the wild Redoma, to the elegant Charme, not forgetting his excellent white wines and the crazy Projectos. But it's a new incarnation of his very first table wine, Robustus, that makes the list." JG

notes

24. Casa Ferreirinha BARCA VELHA 2000, DOC Douro (R)

Varieties: Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz & Tinto Cão

Production: 26.000 & 1.500 Magnum

Producer: Sogrape

Importer: Berkman Cellars

"Sogrape, Portugal's largest wine company, has recently remodeled its range, and quality is pretty good across the board. Barca Velha is a Portuguese icon wine, akin to Penfolds Grange in Australia. It's traditionally styled and ages beautifully. The 2000 is the latest release of a wine that has only been made 16 times since the inaugural release in 1952.." JG

notes

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BAIRRADA / DÃO / BEIRA INTERIOR / BEIRAS

25. Quinta da Pellada 2005, DOC Dão (R)

Varieties: 65% Touriga Nacional ; 20% Tinta Roriz and 15% Old Vines

Production: 7.525 bottles

Producer: Álvaro de Castro

Importador: Castas

"Alvaro Castro is one of Portugal's wine heroes. He's making stunning wines, and I could easily have included four of five of his in my selection. The Pellada Reserva is a profound, complex wine." JG

notes

26. PAPE 2005, DOC Dão (R)

Varieties: 50% Touriga Nacional, 50% Baga

Production: 5.220 bottles

Producer: Álvaro de Castro

Importador: Castas

"PAPE started life as a collaborative venture, with Alvaro Castro making the wines from grapes grown on his Pellada estate and also those from neighbouring Quinta de Pasarella. Recently, Alvaro was able to acquire some of the Pasarella vineyards when the estate was sold. This wine is a superb expression of what the Dão can do.." JG

notes

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BAIRRADA / DÃO / BEIRA INTERIOR / BEIRAS

27. Quinta do Perdigo Touriga Nacional 2005, DOC Dão (R)

Varieties: 100% Touriga Nacional

Production: 3.820 bottles

Producer: Quinta do Perdigo

"From a small 7 hectare property, this is a bit of a find: a delightfully aromatic, floral Touriga Nacional with real depth and intensity." JG

notes

28. Quinta da Vegia Reserva 2005, DOC Dão (R)

Varieties: Touriga Nacional & Tinta Roriz

Production: 3.500 bottles

Producer: Casa de Cello

Importador: Les Caves de Pyrene

"This is made by Casa de Cello, one of the producers in the Independent Winegrowers' Association (IWA), and it's an amazingly vibrant, intense expression of the Dão." JG

notes

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BAIRRADA / DÃO / BEIRA INTERIOR / BEIRAS

29. Flor das Maias 2005, DOC Dão (R) £30

Varieties: 75% Touriga Nacional, 15% Jaen & 10% Alfocheiro

Production: 2.000 bottles

Producer: Quinta das Maias

Importer: Raymond Reynolds Ltd & Danny Cameron

"A 35 hectare estate in the foothills of the Serra d'Estrela, Quinta das Maias is managed by Luis Lourenco of Quinta dos Roques, where the wines are made by Rui Reguinga. This is their top wine, and it's beautifully expressive." JG

notes

30. Cabriz Escolha 2004, DOC Dão £25

Varieties: Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional & Alfocheiro

Production: 2.500 bottles

Producer: Dão Sul

Importer: Clark Foyster Wines Ltd

"Dão Sul is one of Portugal's most dynamic wine companies, and their portfolio spans delicious inexpensive wines to utterly serious high end wines, from a number of different regions. This is one of the best expressions of the Dão that I've experienced." JG

notes

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BAIRRADA / DÃO / BEIRA INTERIOR / BEIRAS

31. Vinha do Contador 2005, DOC Dão (R) £40

Varieties: Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional & Alfocheiro

Production: 1.200 bottles

Producer: Dão Sul

Importer: Clark Foyster Wines Ltd

"Dão Sul took over the management of Casa de Santar, a historic property with 100 hectares of vines, a few years back. This is the top wine, made traditionally in lagars with stems, and it's fantastic." JG

notes

32. Quinta do Ribeirinho Pé Franco 2005, Vinho Regional Beiras (R)

Varieties: 100% Baga

Production: 1.400 - 0,75l; 100 - 1,5l; 50 - 3l

Producer: Luís Pato

Importer: Raymond Reynolds Ltd

"Luis Pato is one of Portugal's wine heroes, and his wines combine modernity with tradition. While he's always been keen to experiment, he's stuck with Baga, the traditional red grape of Bairrada, and this is a beautiful expression of what is often thought to be a tricky variety." JG

notes

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BAIRRADA / DÃO / BEIRA INTERIOR / BEIRAS

33. Quinta das Bageiras Garrafeira 2005, DOC Bairrada (R)

Varieties: 80% Baga, 20% Touriga Nacional

Production: 6.766 bottles

Producer: Quinta das Bageiras

*"Bageiras, under the guidance of Mário Sérgio, is the leading exponent of traditional-style Bairrada, made from Baga with no destemming, and large oak rather than barriques. This is a brilliant wine that will age really well."*JG

notes

34. Lokal Sílex 2006, Vinho Regional Beiras (R)

Varieties: 85% Touriga Nacional, 15% Alfrocheiro Preto

Producer: Filipa Pato

Importer: Clark Foyster

*"Filipa could have taken the easy route and worked with her father Luis' wines. But she decided to forge her own path, and is making some impressive wines from rented vineyards in Dão and Bairrada. This Sílex comes from the Dão."*JG

notes

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BAIRRADA / DÃO / BEIRA INTERIOR / BEIRAS

35. Quinta de Foz de Arouce £45

Vinhas Velhas de Santa Maria 2005, Vinho Regional das Beiras (R)

Varieties: Baga

Production: 8.000 bottles

Producer: Quinta da Foz de arouce

Importer: Oakley Wine

*"Made by João Portugal Ramos from a property in the Beiras owned by his wife's family, this is a varietal Baga made in lagares and then aged in new French oak. A serious wine for long ageing."*JG

notes

**36. Quinta do Cardo, Selecção do Enólogo 2004
DOC Beira Interior (R)**

Varieties: Touriga Nacional

Production: 10.000

Producer: Companhia das Quintas

*"Quinta do Cardo, in the Beira Interior region, inland between the Alentejo and Douro, is part of the Companhia das Quintas. It's making some really good wines, and this varietal Touriga Nacional is their best."*JG

notes

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BAIRRADA / DÃO / BEIRA INTERIOR / BEIRAS

37. Quinta dos Currais Reserva 2002, DOC Beira Interior (R) £12

Varieties: 50% Touriga Nacional; 25% Aragonês; 25% Castelão

Production: 13.000 bottles

Producer: Quinta dos Currais

*"Quinta dos Currais, from the Beira Interior, isn't terribly well known, but this wine, 50% Touriga Nacional, and a quarter each Aragonês and Castelão, is really impressive."*JG

notes

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ESTREMADURA

**38. Quinta de Sant'Ana Reserva 2005
Vinho Regional Estremadura (R) £19.95**

Varieties: Aragonês

Production: 2.300 bottles

Producer: Quinta de Sant'Ana

Importer: Oakley Wine

*"100% Aragonéz from a new estate in Estremadura. It's a sleek, pure, modern style of wine with real appeal."*JG

notes

39. Quinta do Rocio 2006, Vinho Regional Estremadura (R) £19.99

Varieties: 25% Merlot, 25% Grenache, 25% Shiraz, 25% Touriga Nacional

Production: 5.786 bottles

Producer: DFJ Vinhos

Importer: 10 International

*"This is one of a small number of high-end wines from DFJ, best known for their inexpensive fruit-forward wines that have been so successful in the UK marketplace. It's a chunky style that needs some cellar time."*JG

notes

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RIBATEJO

**40. Quinta da Lagoalva de Cima Alfrocheiro 2006
Vinho Regional Ribatejo (R)**

Varieties: Alfrocheiro

Production: 1.850 bottles

Producer: Quinta da Lagoalva de Cima

Importer: Clark Foyster Wines Ltd

*"Lagoalva de Cima make intriguing, rather sturdy, structured wines, and this is my favourite from their range. Made from the Alfrochiero grape, it has a lovely freshness to it."*JG

notes

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TERRAS DO SADO

**41. Adega de Pegões Cinquentenário 2005
Vinho Regional Terras do Sado**

Varieties: Touriga Nacional, Trincadeira, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah

Production: 6.987 bottles

Producer: Cooperativa Agrícola de Pegões

Importer: Hallgarten Druitt

*"Winemaker Jaime Quendera seems to have a magic touch with wines from the Terras do Sado. He's the man behind the Cooperativa Agrícola Santo Isidro de Pegões, probably Portugal's best co-op, and also consults widely."*JG

notes

42. S de Soberanas 2004, Vinho Regional Terras do Sado (R)

Varieties: 50% Trincadeira & 50% Alicante Bouschet

Production: 14.000 bottles

Producer: Soberanas

"Soberanas is a relatively new producer with Paulo Laureano as consulting winemaker. Although their wines are classified Terras do Sado, they have more in common with the Alentejo. This is a delicious, modern-styled red." JG

notes

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TERRAS DO SADO

43. Herdade da Comporta Aragonez / Alicante Bouschet 2005

Vinho Regional Terras do sado (R)

Varieties: Aragonez & Alicante Bouschet

Production: 8.000 bottles

Producer: Herdade da Comporta

Importer: No importer,

"Wine is just one element of this ambitious new project, combining tourism, real estate, leisure pursuits, and a vineyard and winery. Impressive results so far." JG

notes

44. Palácio da Bacalhôa 2005, Vinho Regional Terras do Sado (R)

£16.99

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot & Petit Verdot

Production: 20.052 bottles

Producer: Bacalhôa Vinhos de Portugal

Importer: Erhmanns Lda.

"Expansionist Bacalhôa is now one of Portugal's leading wine companies, and this dense, ripe Bordeaux blend from the Terras do Sado flirts with bigness, but just manages to stay in balance. Deliciously more-ish." JG

notes

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ALENTEJO

45. Marias da Malhadinha 2004, Vinho Regional Alentejo (R)

Varieties: Aragonês, Alicante Bouschet, Cabernet, Syrah, Touriga Nacional

Production: 4.789 bottles

Producer: Herdade da Malhadinha Nova

Importer: Raymond Reynolds

"Malhadinha Nova is an exciting new winery, making a really top-notch range of wines with Luis Duarte as the consultant winemaker. All their wines are excellent, made in a ripe, forward style with wonderful purity of fruit, but it's this—the top wine—that I've chosen." JG

notes

46. António Maria 2006, Vinho Regional Alentejo (R)

Varieties: Alicante Bouschet, Cabernet Sauvignon

Production: 3.400 bottles

Producer: Francisco Nunes Garcia

"The rugged looking Francisco Nunes Garcia isn't well known outside Portugal, and it was only recently that I first tried his wines. They're great, ranging from the brilliantly affordable Convente da Tomina to the excellent Reserva (€20 in Portugal) to this even better special bottling, which retails in Portugal for €50 (3800 bottles made)." JG

notes

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ALENTEJO

47. Dona Maria Reserva 2005, Vinho Regional Alentejo (R)

Varieties: 50% Alicante Bouschet; Petit Verdot & Syrah

Production: 21.300 - 750ml; 650 - Magnum (1.5l)

Producer: Dona Maria Vinhos

*"Júlio Bastos' first vintage at Dona Maria was 2003, but he was the man behind Quinta do Carmo, which he co-owned with Domaines Lafite Rothschild, and so with his new venture he's hit the ground running, and is one of the Alentejo's real stars. All his wines are really good, but two stand out. First, a varietal Alicante Bouschet made from a special clone and named after his father (the Júlio B. Bastos), and this wine, the beautiful Reserva."*JG

notes

**48. Herdade dos Grous "Moon Harvested" 2007
Vinho Regional Alentejo (R)**

Varieties: Alicante Bouschet

Production: 7.000 bottles

Producer: Herdade dos Grous

*"Another relative newcomer, this estate is making some delicious modern-styled wines with help from consultant winemaker Luis Duarte."*JG

notes

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ALENTEJO

49. Mouchão 2002, Vinho Regional Alentejo (R) £18.95

Varieties: 70% Alicante Bouschet, 30% Trincadeira

Production: 40.000 bottles

Producer: Herdade de Mouchão

Importer: Berry Bros & Rudd

*"Mouchão is a remarkable property making wines with a high proportion of Alicante Bouschet. They straddle modernity and tradition really well, with a split canopy system in the vineyard and a delightful old-style winery with lagares and large oak vats. As well as the regular Mouchão that I've chosen here, they also make a special cuvée called Tonel 3/4."*JG

notes

50. Preta 2005, Vinho Regional Alentejo (R) £18.50

Varieties: Touriga Nacional & Cabernet Sauvignon

Production: 13.000 bottles

Producer: Fita Preta Vinhos

Importer: Castas

*"A new venture with winemaking in the hands of António Macanita, and vineyard management by English viticulturist David Booth. This is a very modern-styled, ripe wine, but it's balanced."*JG

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