

GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB

Taste the Adventure!

Portugal





ARGUABLY EUROPE'S BEST KEPT SECRET, PORTUGAL PROVES THERE IS MORE TO PORTUGUESE WINE THAN JUST PORT, WITH INCREDIBLY UNIQUE INDIGENOUS WINE STYLES THAT STAND OUT FOR THEIR VARIETY AND VALUE.



It is safe to say that the tiny country of Portugal has made the most important strides forward of any wine producing country in the entire world during the past decade. Always known for their great Port wines, the country's red wines have now ascended into the upper galaxy of prestigious wines in both national and international competitions.

This is great news for Portuguese growers and vintners who have always produced exceptional wines only to have them meet little attention internationally. With French and Italian (and also Californian) wine prices skyrocketing to new highs, the Portuguese have taken their opportunity and made the most of it.

The smallish country (about the size of Pennsylvania) is home to only 10.8 million people and agriculture is the country's main means of survival. Wine has been vinified since the 1st Century BC, when the Romans conquered the lands on the eastern side of the Iberian Peninsula.

It took the emergence of the European Union to provide the Portuguese wine industry with the means of achieving parity with other top wine producing countries around the world. The fact that it took the gentle country less than two decades to achieve success is almost spectacular. Tradition has always been the byword in Portuguese winemaking and the same is true today in its burgeoning array of wine exports.

A recent national magazine (USA TODAY) gave the Portuguese four of the top five places in its annual list of the Top 100 Wines Available for Purchase. This is not news to wine enthusiast around the globe who have enjoyed Portuguese reds for many years.

This interest, in part, was due to the fact that Portuguese reds enjoyed one of the most prominent price/value ratios to be found anywhere. While this still holds true to a great many of Portuguese reds, such incredible success and exposure means this value might not last too long in the future.

Portuguese winemakers have stuck with their traditional wine varieties (Touriga Nacional is the most prominent and highest esteemed grape), which



bodes well for the industry. It allows the Portuguese to retain a national identity through their wines, as well as a sense of individualism within the international wine community.

Portugal continues to advance its presence among the world's top wine-producing countries. It is our pleasure to introduce these amazing wines to our *International Wine Club* members!

REGION SPOTLIGHT: DOURO

The Douro region of Northern Portugal has long been associated with the making of Port wines that are among the most treasured in the world. During the past two decades, the Douro has joined other Portuguese producers in making outstanding red wines and currently has more than 61,000 acres under vine. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a definite stop on any visit to the country.

It is named for the Douro River that flows eastward from Spain to its mouth at Oporto. The area is extremely mountainous. Vineyards stretch up the steep, dry slopes on both sides of the river and its myriad of tributaries that host the narrow, rocky terraces (that employ the double cordon system of trellising) of the famous growing region. The area allows for the cultivation of more than 80 grape varieties but is led by key varieties such as Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca that are the most well-regarded. Wines from the outstanding 2011 vintage managed three of the four places in the annual Wine Spectator's Top 100 World Wines ranking, an incredible achievement for the Douro growing region.

ALENTEJO

Situated almost directly east of Portugal's capital city of Lisbon, the Alentejo/Redondo wine region is eerily similar to California. It encompasses low, rolling hills, even hot temperatures and a great deal of benign sun. This topography protects much of the area from the cooling effects of the Atlantic Ocean. The area occupies almost one third of the entire country and is sparsely populated. It extends eastward until it touches Spain's western edge in



the Sao Mamede mountain range. Its soils are composed of schist, pink marble, granite and limestone over a sub-layer of water retaining clay. Local history portrays the wines of Alentejo were the first Portuguese wines exported to Rome many centuries ago and some producers in the area still utilize the Roman method of producing wine in clay vessels.

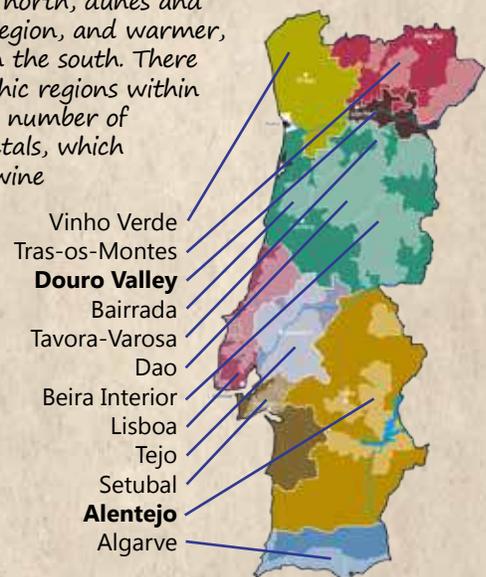
A good number of small, modern wineries have sprung up in Alentejo in recent years (aided by an input of capital from the European Union) and the area is considered one of the most progressive in the entire country. It was also voted (in 2014) by readers of USA TODAY as the best wine region to visit in the entire world.

Redondo is a sub-region of Alentejo and is credited with many of the plaudits associated with the emergence of Portugal as a top red wine producer. Its popularity and acceptance internationally have made it Portugal's most impressive new wave region for producing red wines.



WINE REGIONS OF PORTUGAL

The country of Portugal occupies a long, narrow strip of land down the western seaboard of the Iberian Peninsula, bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south and the country of Spain to the north and east. Portugal's physical environment varies enormously, with colder, mountainous regions in the north, dunes and pine forests in the central region, and warmer, rolling hillsides and plains in the south. There are several distinct geographic regions within Portugal, plus an enormous number of indigenous wine grape varieties, which has led to a wide range of wine growing possibilities and an abundance of incredibly unique wine styles which can't be found anywhere else.



Portugal: Fun Facts!

- Portugal has more than 250 indigenous grape varieties, which is more than any other country in the world.
- Winemaking in Portugal can be traced back as far as the 4th Century B.C.
- Portugal has had the same defined borders since 1139, making it the oldest nation-state in Europe.
- Portugal has a coastline that spans 497 miles and is considered one of the world's top surf spots.
- Portugal's most famous export is Port, a fortified wine made by adding brandy during fermentation, making it sweet and higher in alcohol than table wine (typically 18-20%).
- Port wine grapes are only grown on the steeply terraced hillsides of the Douro Valley near Porto, one of the world's oldest established wine producing regions and a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Portugal is the largest cork producer in the world, supplying 70% of the world's cork exports.
- In 1494, the Treaty of Tordesillas was signed, which essentially gave Portugal the eastern half of the "New World," including Brazil, Africa, and Asia. The Portuguese Empire was actually the first global empire in history, and it was also one of the longest-lived colonial powers, lasting for almost six centuries.
- Lisbon, Portugal is older than Rome, Italy, and among the oldest cities in Europe. Archaeological findings date back to 1200 BC, revealing Phoenician populations in and around Portugal's capital city.
- The Barcelos Rooster is considered to be the unofficial symbol of Portugal. The legend tells the story of a dead rooster's miraculous intervention in proving the innocence of a man who had been falsely accused and sentenced to death. The rooster emblem can be found in every local gift shop, typically in a ceramic form, in vivid colors, and said to be the embodiment of the famous Portuguese love of life.
- The Portuguese eat more fish per capita than any other country in Europe.



Photos, top to bottom, left to right:

- Portugal is home to a large array of native grape varieties (over 250!), the most popular being Touriga Nacional which is widely believed to produce the finest red wines in the country.
- One of Europe's oldest and most beautiful wine growing regions, the Douro Valley is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the home of the famous Port wines.
- Several wineries in Portugal's Alentejo region still produce wine in great clay vessels, called *talhas de barro*, as done in Roman times. Some of these clay vessels weigh up to a ton, reach two meters in height, and can store up to 2,000 liters of wine.
- Portugal is the center of the world's cork business with roughly 1.6 million acres of cork forests, producing half the cork harvested annually in the world.
- Quinta Do Vallado's vineyards are planted on the steeply terraced hillsides of the Douro Valley, where the Mediterranean climate and extreme terrain provide ideal growing conditions for several native varieties.
- Herdade de Sao Miguel, a family-owned wine company, is located near Redondo in the beautiful and sprawling Alentejo wine region.

THE FLAG OF PORTUGAL



The flag of Portugal was adopted on June 30, 1911 and is filled with historical significance. The green stripe represents hope, while the red stripe represents the bloodshed during the Portuguese Revolution of 1910. Centered on the flag is

the Coat of Arms, which includes a white shield with five smaller blue shields, each with five white dots. The blue shields symbolize the first King's victory over five Moorish kings and the divine assistance he received to do so is shown by the five white dots (representing the five wounds of Christ). The red border with seven castles symbolizes the castles conquered during the Reconquista. Behind the shield is an armillary sphere, which was a navigational instrument - it represents Portugal's importance during the Age of Discovery.



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Taste the Adventure!

Our unique "Adventure Package" takes you beyond the wines to experience delectable selections of imported gourmet treats from the featured country. We take the time to search out regional delights to pair with the wines. All products are exclusive imports that represent the wine region along with the local culture.



FEATURED PORTUGUESE WINERIES

A pair of award-winning, family-owned wineries have emerged into the spotlight with their high quality standards, variety of distinctive, indigenous wine styles, and a commitment to delivering value with each and every bottle.



HERDADE DE SAO MIGUEL

This relatively new estate was purchased more than 20 years ago by Alexandre Relvas, Sr., and consists of some 430 acres, of which more than 86 are planted in an assortment of Portuguese varietals. Another 240 acres are planted in cork trees that are used in the Portuguese wine industry. The soils are typically schist and granite and the varietals are mostly traditional Portuguese (Aragones,

Alicante Bouschet, Touriga Nacional and Trincaciera) and well-suited for the differing Alentejo growing region.

The Herdade de Sao Miguel is located in the Redondo sub-region and features a new and modern winery that was built in 2003. The first reds from Sao Miguel followed the next year and were successful from their inception in winning numerous awards and accolades. Herdade de Sao Miguel is definitely a family affair, with fifth-generation sons Alexandre Relvas, Jr. acting as winery manager and winemaker and Antonio Relvas serving as marketing director.



Another interesting facet of the operation is the use of more than 400 Merino sheep to fertilize and weed the vineyards

of which more than 20 percent are certified as organically-farmed. Other endangered animals, Mirandela donkeys and Garrano horses of Geres, are found at the estate to protect their survival.

Herdade de Sao Miguel is one of a host of small, new wineries forging Portugal's future in the international wine business.

Winemaker: Alexandre Relvas, Jr.

The son of Herdade de Sao Miguel founder Alexandre Relvas, Sr., Alexander Relvas, Jr. learned his winemaker trade in university studies in Bordeaux, France. While there, he also gained experience at one of Bordeaux's leading chateaux. He is a proponent of a modernistic approach to his wines, but also maintains a traditionalistic viewpoint to classic Portuguese grape varietals.

Relvas, Jr. also enjoys the services of renowned Portuguese wine consultant Luis Duarte, one of the country's leading enologists.

QUINTA DO VALLADO

The history of the Quinta do Vallado dates back to the year 1716, and makes it one of the oldest and most famous of the Douro Valley's impressive group of ancient estates. It has remained in the Ferriera Family for more than six generations and lies of the banks of the Corgo River, a tributary of the mighty Douro river that winds through Spain and Portugal. Known for its production of highly-rated Portuguese-owned Ports (as opposed to English-owned Port companies), the company decided in 1993 to extend its business into red wines just as the fledgling Portuguese red wine industry took its first real steps toward international recognition.



Quinta do Vallado is comprised of almost 173 acres, with nearly 50 acres considered old vine (some more than 90 years old) and the rest more recently planted. Some of the acreage is also deemed organic, a positive factor for the

company. Planted in steep terraces with south and western facings, these vines are among the most prized in the country.

A new, state-of-the-art winery was built in 2009 and an ultra-modern hotel was added in 2012, making the Quinta one of the most preferred locations for visiting wine enthusiasts in the Douro Valley.

Sixth generation descendants of original owner Dona Antonia Adelaide Ferreira own the Quinta do Vallado.



Winemaker: Francisco Olazabal

Francisco Olazabal is a direct descendant (4 x great grandson) of legendary winery founder Dona Antonia Adelaide Ferriera and the 2011 recipient of Portugal's **Winemaker of the Year**. Olazabal is also part owner as well as one of the 'Duero Boys,' a well-known group of winemakers that are blazing new frontiers in the Portuguese wine industry. He is a gifted enologist and a pioneer in the country's reemergence as one of the world's leading producers of red wines.



The International Wine Club features exclusively imported hard-to-find wines of the world strictly for members of the Gold Medal Wine Club.



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QUINTA DO VALLADO 2015 TOURIGA NACIONAL

Douro, Portugal



93 POINTS

-Wine & Spirits magazine

92 POINTS

-Robert Parker's
The Wine Advocate

92 POINTS

-Wine Enthusiast
magazine

Produced from estate vineyards in the famed Douro wine growing region of Portugal, the Quinta Do Vallado 2015 Touriga Nacional is a beautifully balanced wine with great concentration. Touriga Nacional is indigenous to Portugal and grows predominantly in the Douro region. While it is used primarily as a blending grape in Port wines, it has recently been championed as a dry red wine with bold, lush flavors and the aging potential of a Cabernet Sauvignon. On the nose, this wine offers aromas of wild red fruits and orange-citrus characters, as well as hints of violets and spice. The palate is elegant, fruity and round with silky tannins that linger on the refreshing finish. Pair the 2015 Touriga Nacional with light meat dishes, such as pork. Aged 16 months in oak. 100% Touriga Nacional. Enjoy!

You Save 26% to 31%
off Winery Retail Price

Winery Retail Price	2+ btl.	6+ btl.	12+ btl.
\$70.00/btl.			
2 & 3 Btl. Members:	\$52.00	\$50.33	\$49.50
4+ Btl. Members:	\$52.00	\$49.50	\$48.25

HERDADE DE SAO MIGUEL 2015 ESCOLHA DOS ENOLOGOS RED WINE

Redondo-Alentejo, Portugal



93 POINTS

-Decanter magazine

92 POINTS

-Wine Enthusiast
magazine

90 POINTS

-Wine Spectator
magazine

GOLD MEDAL

-Vinalies Internationales

The 2015 Escolha Dos Enologos Red Wine is a special blend from Herdade De Sao Miguel, made by two winemakers, Nuno Franco and Alexander Relvas, Jr. Their goal was to create the best expression possible of the 2015 vintage. Produced from estate vineyards in the Redondo-Alentejo region of Portugal, this red blend is comprised of 40% Alicante Bouschet, 30% Touriga Franca, and 30% Touriga Nacional, all widely planted across the expansive Alentejo. Deep ruby in color, the 2015 Escolha Dos Enologos Red Wine opens with complex aromas of ripe red fruits, wild flowers and spices, and hints of vanilla and toasted oak. The palate is full-bodied and well-balanced with rich flavors of dark red fruits and spice, nice structure, and smooth tannins that blend seamlessly into the elegant finish. Try pairing this wine with roasted red meats, game, and pork. Aged 9 months in oak. Enjoy!

You Save 28% to 43%
off Winery Retail Price

Winery Retail Price	2+ btl.	6+ btl.	12+ btl.
\$25.00/btl.			
2 & 3 Btl. Members:	\$18.00	\$16.33	\$15.50
4+ Btl. Members:	\$18.00	\$15.50	\$14.25

HERDADE DE SAO MIGUEL 2017 COLHEITA SELECCIONADA ROSE

Redondo-Alentejo, Portugal



Hard to Find!
Only 1,500
Cases Produced

A blend of 50% Aragonez and 50% Touriga Nacional, the Herdade De Sao Miguel 2017 'Colheita Seleccionada' Rose comes from the Redondo-Alentejo region of Portugal. Pale pink in color, this refreshing rose wine offers bright aromas of fresh tropical fruits and red berries. On the palate, this wine is intense and fresh with excellent minerality, and well-balanced acidity before leading into a very pleasant finish. The Herdade De Sao Miguel 2017 'Colheita Seleccionada' Rose pairs well with sushi, fresh fish, seafood dishes, and a variety of salads and cheeses. Aged in stainless steel vats. Enjoy!

You Save 17% to 38%
off Winery Retail Price

Winery Retail Price	2+ btl.	6+ btl.	12+ btl.
\$18.00/btl.			
2 & 3 Btl. Members:	\$15.00	\$13.33	\$12.50
4+ Btl. Members:	\$15.00	\$12.50	\$11.25

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