

PORTUGUESE WINES

In looking at Portugal's wine regions, it's helpful to split the country in two, by drawing a line about a third of the way down. This separates the northern regions of the Douro, Dão and Bairrada, and the central and southern regions of the Alentejo, Ribatejo and Estremadura. As a useful generalization, the future for the northern regions lies in focusing on high-quality, top-end 'terroir' wines, while the strength of the southern and central regions is their ability to produce accessible, full flavoured red wines in large quantities and at affordable prices: new world-style wines with a Portuguese twist.

Alentejo

The Alentejo has led the way in Portugal's wine revolution. It's a region that has enjoyed tremendous success over the last decade, producing red wines in two distinctive styles. On the one hand, there is the traditional Alentejo style. This is typified by José Maria da Fonseca, part of which is fermented in clay pots, and which displays leathery, herby, sweet-spice complexity. Another traditional producer is Cartuxa (from Évora), best known for the brilliant but unusual cult wine Pera Manca. However there is now a move to the more modern, fruit-forward, almost new-world style that has been such a huge commercial success and which has propelled this region forward so fast.

The Alentejo is huge, with its flat plains covering almost a third of the country. Much of this area is given over to cereal production. It is also hot, and irrigation is common. In contrast to the northern regions, with their fragmented smallholdings, production is dominated by large, professional outfits.

Bairrada

Unusually for Portugal, Bairrada is a region dominated by just one grape, the often-maligned Baga. 80% of wines from this region are red, and almost all of these are made from Baga. It is thick-skinned, high in acidity and pretty tannic. Combine this with the common practice of leaving the stems in the fermentation vat, and it has the potential to make tough, challenging wines. But while many of the wines made from Baga are overly astringent, the fact that some winemakers do great things with it suggests that the blame lays at the door of the less competent producers rather than the grape.

Dão

Dão reds have changed beyond all recognition over the last years. There has been massive improvement, and while there's still some mediocre wine made here, the overall standard has been raised. Like Bairrada, though, the fragmentation of vineyard holdings has been a hindrance to progress.

Located inland, the Dão has cold wet winters but mild, dry summers. The granitic-soiled vineyards are at altitude, resulting in ripe grapes with good acidity, and the potential for elegant, expressive red wines.

Douro

In a relatively short period of time the Douro has established itself as Portugal's premium wine region. It's hard to overstate the scale and pace of change that is currently taking place in this most spectacular of wine regions. The steeply terraced vineyards contain some wonderful landscapes, but because of the economic dominance of the Port trade it is only recently that these have been widely exploited to produce premium wines.

Estremadura

A long, thin region running up the Atlantic coast from Lisbon, Estremadura has struggled in the past as a producer of bulk wine from tired cooperatives. While the region is still quite a mixed bag, there are some impressive wines emerging at both the quality and volume ends of the market. As in the Ribatejo, it is not uncommon to find international grape varieties planted here. Some appealing fruity whites are also made here.

Ribatejo

For a long time the provider of bulk wine, the Ribatejo is now emerging as an exciting source of modern-styled commercially astute red wines. The fertile alluvial soils on the banks of the river Tagus produce soft-textured, ripe, drinkable reds in the sorts of quantities and at the price that excites supermarket buyers. Further up, on the stonier soils more serious wines can be made. Unlike most other Portuguese regions, foreign varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot are quite common here, and seem to do well.

Algarve

The demarcated region of the Algarve has existed since 1980, but for a long time the vines have been abandoned, neglecting the genetic inheritance of old grape varieties. However, as a result of strong investment over the last few decades, about 30 producers have been able to reap the rewards. Today the Algarve, as a region producing quality wine is a reality, enhanced by excellent terroirs, with a touch of clay that is often identified as a characteristic trait of Algarve wines.

There are four wine-producing regions in the Algarve with Designation of Origin: Lagos, Portimão, Lagoa and Tavira.

All prices are inclusive of IVA (VAT) at the prevailing rate.

PATO FRIO CASHMERE

Type: Rosé

Vintage Year: 2018

Region: Alentejo – Portugal

Grape variety: Touriga Nacional

Winemaker: Paulo Laureano

Producer: Ribafreixo

Production: 40.000 bottles

Alcohol %: 12.5



Tasting Notes

Colour: Cashmere

Aroma: A mix of leechies and ripe gooseberries.

Mouth: Smooth in the mouth, with exuberant freshness and mineral notes.

Glass 125 ml: **€4.50**

Carafe 500 ml: **€12.70**

Glass 175 ml: **€5.00**

Bottle 750 ml: **€16.90**

DORINA LINDEMANN

Type: Rosé

Vintage Year: 2018

Region: Alentejo – Portugal

Grape variety: Aragonez, Castelão

Winemaker: Dorinna Lindemann

Producer: Quinta da Plansel

Production: N/A

Alcohol %: 11.0



Tasting Notes

Colour: Dark blush

Aroma: Elegant and intense, with notes of berries.

Mouth: Appealing, fruity, fresh and smooth.

€18.00

QUINTA DA ALORNA

Type: Rosé

Vintage Year: 2018

Region: Tagus – Portugal

Grape variety: Touriga Nacional

Winemaker: Marta Reis Simões

Producer: Quinta da Alorna

Production: 28.000 bottles

Alcohol %: 12.0



Tasting Notes

Colour: Soft pink colour

Aroma: Fruity, predomination of redcurrant, raspberries and strawberries aromas.

Mouth: Fresh and persistent, confirming the aromas.

Glass 125 ml: **€4.70**

Carafe 500 ml: **€12.80**

Glass 175 ml: **€5.20**

Bottle 750 ml: **€17.50**

MATEUS ROSÉ

Type: Rosé

Vintage Year: 2018

Region: Beiras – Portugal

Grape variety: Baga, Rufete, Tinta Barroca,
Touriga Franca and others

Winemaker: Miguel Pessanha

Producer: Sogrape

Production: N/A

Alcohol %: 11.0



Tasting Notes

Colour: Bright pink

Aroma: Fruity with red fruits and spices.

Mouth: Balanced and inviting, with a smooth and slightly sparkling finish.

Bottle 375 ml: **€9.00**

Bottle 750 ml: **€14.50**

CARM ROSÉ

Type: Rosé

Vintage Year: 2018

Region: Douro – Portugal

Grape variety: Touriga Nacional

Winemaker: Antonio Ribeiro

Producer: Carm

Production: N/A

Alcohol %: 12.8%



Tasting Notes

Colour: Dark pink

Aroma: Ripe fruits of the forest, spices and toast.

Mouth: Prolonged taste, fresh and rich, with good acidity and balance.

€21.00

MARQUÊS DE MARIALVA

Type: Sparkling

Vintage Year: 2018

Region: Bairrada – Portugal

Grape variety: Bical, Maria Gomes

Winemaker: N/A

Producer: Ad. Coop. Cantanhede

Production: N/A

Alcohol %: 12.5



Tasting Notes

Colour: Citrine

Aroma: Ripe orange zest. Light apricot

Mouth: Excellent acidity that offers freshness. Very complex.

€19.00

MURGANHEIRA

Type: Sparkling

Vintage Year: 2015

Region: Dão – Portugal

Grape variety: Bical, Maria Gomes

Winemaker: N/A

Producer: Ad. Coop. Cantanhede

Production: N/A

Alcohol %: 12.5



Tasting Notes

Colour: Citrine

Aroma: Dry fruits

Mouth: Good balance between acidity and fruit.

€30.60

LOUIS ROEDERER

Type: Champagne

Vintage Year: 2015

Region: Reims – France

Grape variety: Pinot Noir, Chardonnay,
Pinot Meunier

Winemaker: Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon

Producer: Louis Roederer

Production: N/A

Alcohol %: 12.0



Tasting Notes

Colour: Golden

Aroma: Rich and subtle with almond notes.

Mouth: Thin and persistent bubbles. Perfect balance between the structure and the fruitiness of the Pinot with the elegance of the Chardonnay.

€84.00

DOM PÉRIGNON VINTAGE

Type: Champagne

Vintage Year: 2009

Region: Reims – France

Grape variety: Pinot Noir, Chardonnay,

Winemaker: Richard Geoffroy

Producer: Moët & Chandon

Production: 5 million bottles

Alcohol %: 12.5



Tasting Notes

Colour: Light gold

Aroma: Toasted bread and nuts with some sweet floral overtones.

Mouth: Expansive and broad with a silky texture, the flavours are perfectly balanced and linger extremely long in the mouth. Excellent acidity.

€195.00

MONTE DA RAVASQUEIRA – 0,375 l
SPECIAL LATE HARVEST

Type: Late Harvest

Vintage Year: 2015

Region: Alentejo - Portugal

Grape variety: Viognier

Winemaker: Pedro Pereira Gonçalves

Producer: Soc. Agrícola D. Diniz

Production: 7.186 bottles

Alcohol %: 10.5



Tasting Notes

Colour: Dark hay

Aroma: The absence of wood excels the tropical aromas

Mouth: Good acidity and a lot of freshness. Complex and creamy

€22.00