



## **DUAS QUINTAS – 25 YEARS OF HISTORY**

### **DUAS QUINTAS**

#### **THE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION OF MAN AND THE GENIUS OF THE DOURO VALLEY.**

#### **RAMOS PINTO CELEBRATES THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF DUAS QUINTAS.**

25 years ago, in 1990, Ramos Pinto released Duas Quintas Tinto, one of the first Quinta's in the Douro to release quality table wine after extensive viticultural research by the Godfather of the Douro, João Nicolau de Almeida.

João Nicolau de Almeida, after gaining his degree from the Bordeaux University of Oenology, returned to Ramos Pinto and started to look into terroir in the Douro. Inspired by his father Fernando Nicolau de Almeida, who created the first great Douro wine a few decades earlier, he collected and started to produce specific varieties suited to still wine rather than fortified. Combining his love of the region and his passion for enology, João Nicolau began an exhaustive micro-vinification study of single grape varieties. This study established the five major varieties that were officially adopted by the regional authorities: Touriga Nacional, Touriga Francesa, Tinta Barroca, Tinta Roriz, and Tinta Cao.

In the mid-seventies, Nicolau de Almeida and his family further developed the study by leading the way with modern viticultural practices. As part of his research on the singular varieties planted in the Douro vineyards, he selected the plant material and then organized the vines by varietal blocks, planting the vines up and down the rolling hills rather than on the region's typical horizontal terraces. By planting vertically, Nicolau de Almeida was able to achieve greater vine density while also increasing vineyard management efficiency.

Nicolau de Almeida is truly a pioneer of the Douro Valley, in addition to carrying on the family tradition of making world-class Ports, he also set a new standard for Portuguese red table wines with the creation of Duas Quintas. The two Vinho Tinto, a "regular" bottling and a Reserva, have captured the attention of wine lovers and opened the door for further exploration of the robust, elegant wines from this incredibly beautiful region where the love of wine has been cultivated for centuries.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary marks a milestone for Joao's original research on sub regionality and terroir in the Douro, really laying the foundation for the quality of wines from the region today. More and more the Douro will become known for its sub-regionality and this is thanks to the pioneering spirit of Joao.

End



### **Notes to Editors**

Ramos Pinto: founded in 1880 and has a long and distinguished history which has culminated recently with a take-over by Louis Roederer Champagne House in 1990. Today, Frédéric Rouzaud, one of the leaders of the Champagne House, continues the work of five previous generations of the Roederer family. Ramos Pinto undertook a self-production policy meaning that it only produces wine and Port with grapes from its own estates. Understanding that the quality of the wine and Port depends on the earth of the Douro region Ramos Pinto took ownership of a number of estates. This autonomy gives its wines a unique and distinctive characteristic.

Duas Quintas Wines are imported exclusively by Maisons Marques et Domaines UK.

MMD: Established in 1986 as the exclusive distributor of Champagne Louis Roederer, MMD now manages UK distribution for a broad portfolio of 17 high quality, family owned producers from around the world including iconic brands such Château Pichon-Lalande, Domaines Ott, Marques de Murrieta and Pio Cesare.

### **Current Vintages**

DQ Branco 2013

DQ Tinto 2013

DQ Reserva 2011

Joao Nicolau de Almeida will be in London on 25<sup>th</sup> March and available for meetings. We will be showing back vintages from the 25 years of Duas Quintas. For further information please contact Christine Allen ([christine.allen@mmdltd.co.uk](mailto:christine.allen@mmdltd.co.uk) / 0208 812 3380)