



Ramos Pinto – Harvest Report - 2019

“With innovation and humility, accepting the opinion of others, we will achieve the desired quality, without ever losing sight of our past” - Carlos Peixoto

In 2019 there was much less rainfall than during the previous year. In comparison to 2018, throughout the growing cycle, the level of precipitation fell to one-third of the previously recorded figures, dropping 35% at Quinta dos Bons Ares. At the beginning of the year temperatures were high, but in August and September there was a fall in temperature compared to the annual average.

GROWING CYCLE

Bud break, flowering and bunch closure all occurred 12 days earlier than in 2018. Everything pointed to an earlier harvest, but in fact the harvest started practically on the same day as in 2018, as a result of the drop in temperature in August.

PRODUCTION

Production in the quintas grew by 29% and increased by 40% in Quinta de Ervamoira, which had the largest production of all times.

HARVEST

On the 22th of August, the harvest began at Quinta de Ervamoira with the white grapes. One week later, on the 28th of August, the red grapes were slowly harvested, a process that continued until early October. The white grapes achieved full ripeness retaining excellent natural acidity resulting in very fresh, aromatic wines. The red grapes presented outstanding freshness, good sugar levels and very fresh fruit.

At Quinta dos Bons Ares the harvest began on the 7th of September with optimal performance of the white grapes - balanced and aromatic. The red grape harvest ended on the 4th of October. Quinta da Urtiga, which has over 50 grape varieties on pre-phylloxera terraces under biodynamic practices, was harvest on the 12th and 13th of September. The wine obtained from this "magical" plot was vinous, fresh and structured. A remarkably unique wine.

At Quinta do Bom Retiro, the harvest ran from the 14th of September till the 8th of October. The different grape varieties matured slowly, benefiting from hot sunny days and cool nights which is the ideal climate for perfect maturation. The old vines at our Rio and Alhais parcels matured slowly and maintained bright acidity which resulted in fresh, elegant wines. The grapes were in perfect condition.

2019 was a year marked by a huge drought with mild temperatures, which resulted in what seemed almost impossible: quality and quantity.



PORT WINE

“Spring and Summer were very dry, although cooler than usual, particularly at night, resulting in balanced maturation and excellent natural acidity” - Ana Rosas



WHITE PORT WINE

The wines are deliciously fresh and fruity. Lágrima Branco is bright, aromatic and very attractive. Production was generous and of excellent quality.

RED PORT WINE

The wines present an excellent colour, ripe fruit with tropical notes, wonderful freshness on the palate and well-integrated tannins. The Touriga Nacional from Quinta do Bom Retiro and from Quinta de Ervamoira is delicious, floral, fresh and edgy. Tinta Barroca presented good body and freshness, which was a great surprise. Sousão had plenty of bright fruit and is a key blending variety for our Vintage and LBV Port. Touriga Franca, which had great trouble in maturing, ended up being very interesting with a slightly different profile from the usual, leading to aromatic wines with fresh and resinous notes. Finally, Tinto Cão produced elegant wines, filled with flavourful fresh fruit.

The wines from our old vines at Quinta do Bom Retiro presented outstanding quality – aromatic, concentrated and with fantastic freshness.

DOURO WINES

“The cooler temperatures at the end of the growing cycle enabled our grapes to undergo slow, continuous maturation, which is reflected in the wine that I consider to be extremely elegant given the type of fruit and unparalleled freshness” - João Luís Baptista



WHITE WINE

The year's characteristics resulted in white wines of very high quality, with a good body, freshness and ripe fruit. The wines produced from schist soils are very expressive, ample and with ripe fruit. The grapes from the granite soil, on the other hand, are more delicate with fresh fruit and optimal acidity.

RED WINE

The 2019 red wines are very elegant, aromatic and with delicate notes of red berries and sweet flowers. The tannins are mature, soft and uncommonly fresh. The wines from schist soil register hints of red berries and are elegant wines with fine tannins and excellent acidity. The wines produced from granite soil are more floral, lighter and with the freshness that is characteristic of this type of soil.

CONCLUSION

In 2019, nature presented us with an outstanding harvest both in terms of quantity and quality. Despite the extremely dry year, maturation was long and slow, with cool nights throughout the summer, creating perfect maturation conditions. These wines are fresh, fruity and very balanced.