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14 Diverse Values From Portugal

New reviews of reds and whites from Douro, Vinho Verde and Alentejo



Winemaking at Quinta do Crasto is a family affair with father Jorge Roquette and sons Tomás and Miguel all involved in the winery.

Kim Marcus

Posted: April 8, 2016



Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.

Portugal offers a cornucopia of wines and winemaking styles from a variety of grapes. The following list is indicative of the diversity Portugal offers—and at very wallet-friendly prices. If you are looking for crisp whites, try the Vinho Verdes. The top-rated wine, from Soalheiro, is made from Alvarinho grapes (known as Albariño in Spain) grown in old-vine vineyards. The juice is mostly fermented in stainless-steel tanks, though a small percentage goes into neutral oak for added richness.

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Caves Aliança, a reliable producer of value-priced reds and whites from throughout the country, scores with red blends from the Alentejo and Bairrada regions. Sogrape, Portugal's largest wine company, makes notable reds and whites from the Douro, the nation's leading table-wine region. And family-owned wineries Quinta de la Rosa and Quinta do Crasto chime in with their own full-flavored Douro reds as well.

SOALHEIRO Alvarinho Vinho Verde Primeiras Vinhas 2014 Score: 90 / \$25

A taut and powerful white, with concentrated minerally notes to the kiwifruit, green apple and Key lime pie flavors. Herbal accents show on the zesty finish. Drink now through 2020. 80 cases imported.—K.M.

CAVES ALIANÇA Alentejo Alabastro 2014 Score: 89 / \$10

A rich and ripe red, with concentrated flavors of dark cherry, boysenberry and plum tart, loaded with cardamom and dried ginger notes. Creamy finish. Arogonez, Trincadeira and Alicante Bouschet. Drink now through 2018. 2,500 cases imported.—K.M.

CASA FERREIRINHA Douro Esteva 2014 Score: 89 / \$13

A richly spiced and juicy red, filled with succulent flavors of cherry, raspberry and plum, backed by firm acidity. White pepper accents show on the fresh finish. Pinot Noir, Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca and Aragonez. Drink now through 2019. 166,666 cases made.—K.M.

CASA FERREIRINHA Douro White Planalto Reserva 2014 Score: 89 / \$15

A lush and spicy style, with plenty of buttery notes to the baked apple, pear and almond tart flavors. Shortbread accents show on the long, rich finish. Drink now. 141,666 cases made.—K.M.

QUINTA DE LA ROSA Douro 2013 Score: 89 / \$20

Juicy, with notes of forest floor to the dark plum, dried savory herb and licorice snap flavors. Slate and white pepper details linger on the tannic finish. Drink now through 2019. 2,000 cases imported.—K.M.

CAVES ALIANÇA Bairrada Reserva 2013 Score: 88 / \$19

Shows rich notes of dried meat and hoisin sauce to the berry and cherry tart flavors. Iodine and hot stone details show on the firm, sinewy finish. Baga, Tinta-Roriz and Touriga-Nacional. Drink now through 2018. 4,500 cases made.—K.M.

PEDRA CANCELA Dão Winemaker's Selection 2014 Score: 88 / \$10

A fruity and plump red, with crushed red berry and plum flavors, backed by fresh acidity. Open-textured minerality emerges on the finish. Drink now through 2018. 6,000 cases imported.—K.M.

CASA SANTOS LIMA Lisboa Reserva do Monte 2014 Score: 88 / \$10

Ripe and juicy, with plenty of Asian spice notes to the dark plum and cherry pie flavors. Hints of ginger and dark chocolate show on the lush finish. Drink now through 2019. 5,800 cases imported.—K.M.

QUINTA DO CRASTO Douro Flor de Crasto 2014 Score: 88 / \$13

Shows notes of hot stone to the dried berry, red licorice and cherry flavors. Peppery details emerge midpalate, with a minerally finish. Drink now through 2018. 12,300 cases made.—K.M.

SOALHEIRO Alvarinho Vinho Verde 2015 Score: 88 / \$19

This snappy white offers concentrated flavors of ripe apple, melon and dried green herb. Lemon curd notes show on the rich finish. Drink now. 600 cases imported.—*K.M.*

TERRAS DE ALTER Aragonêz-Touriga Nacional Alentejo Rosé Fado 2015 Score: 87 / \$9

Fruity, with raspberry, melon and dried cherry flavors that are well-structured. Peppery notes show on the juicy finish. Drink now. 2,750 cases imported.—*K.M.*

QUINTA DA LIXA Alvarinho-Trajadura Vinho Verde Aromas das Castas Grande Escolha 2015 Score: 87 / \$14

Firm and savory, with lemon drop accents to the dried green herb and apple tart flavors. Light, smoky accents show on the crisp finish. Drink now. 900 cases imported.—*K.M.*

CASA SANTOS LIMA Lisboa Bons Ventos Red 2014 Score: 86 / \$12

Spicy, with some floral notes to the red plum and wild cherry flavors. Black licorice details show on the dense finish. Drink now. 8,670 cases imported.—*K.M.*

QUINTA DA LIXA Alvarinho Minho Pouco-Comum 2015 Score: 86 / \$16

A medium-bodied, fruity white, with fresh-cut Gala apple and white cherry flavors. Offers a spicy finish, delivering notes of passion fruit. Drink now. 2,500 cases imported.—*K.M.*

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