

Quinta do Infantado

Profile



Quinta do Infantado has been a leader in estate-bottled Ports since 1979. Until that time, all exported Ports had to be shipped in bulk to Vila Nova de Gaia, 60 miles west of the Douro Valley, where they were bottled and shipped. This practice effectively prevented small private producers from exporting their wines, since the cost of running an operation in another town was prohibitive for these vineyard owners. In 1986 the laws were changed.

The Quinta is based in Pinhão, specifically in the subdistrict of Gontelho where the best Port vineyards may be found. The estate has been owned by the Roseira family since the end of the 19th century and is now managed by brother and sister, João Roseira, vineyard manager/winemaker, and Catherine Roseira, Chief Executive. The vineyards (terraced, very steep and hard-soiled) are worked in traditional methods.

Finally, the Vintage Ports of Quinta do Infantado are singularly distinctive in their "meio-seco" (medium-dry) style. The Roseira family is very careful when declaring a vintage year and will not do so if there is the least doubt about the concentration and quality of the vintage. The 1985 is a terrific Vintage Port for consuming over the next ten years. The wine is remarkably rich, expressive and multi-layered while retaining the force, tannins and "old- vines" character of a youthful Port. The 1997 was released in the fall of 1999 and is considered an excellent vintage for cellaring until the year 2011. It has good concentration and depth, but, more importantly, excellent structure and balance.

We have been truly enthusiastic about these wines since the day one of our winemakers in the Rhône insisted we taste a terrific Port he had brought back from a recent trip to the Douro valley. We are infinitely grateful for his good opinion and taste.