



HARVEST REPORT 2022

“2022: Resilience always pays off.”

Carlos Peixoto

THE YEAR

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

2022 was a very dry year.

Annual precipitation at Quinta do Bom Retiro was less than in 2021. There were short but intense rainfalls, so that the water did not seep into the soil or benefit the plants. At Quinta dos Bons Ares and Quinta de Ervamoira precipitation was about one-third of the previous year. The absence of rain between December 2021 and September 2022 and the fact that the springs feeding our quintas were dry led to several months with no water. There has not been a year like this for decades.

At Quinta do Bom Retiro and Quinta dos Bons Ares average and maximum temperatures between May and September were higher than those of the last few years. At Quinta de Ervamoira, on the other hand, the late summer was milder than the previous year, always in a situation of severe drought.

VEGETATIVE CYCLE

On average, the vegetative cycle occurred later than in 2021. Due to the drought and the high temperatures, maturation was irregular.

In terms of plant health, the year was an easy one, as meteorological conditions did not aid the development of diseases.



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QUINTA DE ERVAMOIRA

The harvest at Quinta da Ervamoira began on August 4th with Viosinho grapes being picked to make D.O.C. Douro White wine, followed by riper white grapes for Port wine. The red grapes began to be harvested a week and a half later. August 24th saw the start of the harvest for red Port wine. Although the grape berries were small and concentrated (due to lack of water in the soil) they had a good colour and aroma. Picking proceeded at a good rhythm, but the sugar levels were not high. The must yield was also considerably reduced. The harvest at Quinta de Ervamoira ended on September 20th for Port wine grapes and the following day for the D.O.C. Douro wines.

QUINTA DOS BONS ARES

Despite the severe drought and high temperatures, given that Quinta dos Bons Ares is at an altitude of approximately 600 metres, temperatures were mild, allowing the grapes to achieve balanced maturation. The harvest started on August 26th, one day earlier than in 2021, and also ended about three weeks earlier, on September 21st, with the Touriga Nacional grape variety. Production was low, but the berries were reasonable in size, particularly those on the vines at lower altitudes. The grapes had good acidity and excellent aromatic quality. The white grape Rabigato stood out, both in the older vines and in some of the new plots, promising the creation of great wines.



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QUINTA DO BOM RETIRO

The harvest occurred between August 30th and September 20th. The south and west facing vines had few leaves as they had been more affected by exposure to the sun. The vines facing east at a higher level presented full leaf cover. With their deep root systems, the old vines withstood the lack of water very well, while the young plantations suffered intensely.

There was a huge drop in production at Quinta do Bom Retiro, offset by the good quality, which gave rise to exceptional wines. The vineyards at this quinta express the broad diversity of the Douro Demarcated Region!

VINHA DA URTIGA

In a difficult year for the vines, the Urtiga vineyard appears to have been more “intelligent” than the rest. Despite low production caused not by small berries and bunches but by few fully-developed bunches, the 63 grape varieties matured quite homogeneously (by mid-August they already offered good prospects).

Each visit to the vineyard revealed increased aromatic potential while phenolic maturation neared perfection. At the beginning of the last week of August, all grapes not in perfect condition were removed. Given the hot, dry year, the health of the grapes presented no problems, so the quantity of grapes removed was quite low.

The Urtiga vineyard was picked on the morning of 31 August. The grapes had good acidity, good maturation and great aromatic intensity, so we anticipate the production of a great wine in the future.



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"Throughout the Douro Demarcated Region the 2022 harvest was very complex in meteorological terms. However, from a quality point of view we are very satisfied with the Ramos Pinto quintas. We will have very good wines."

Ana Rosas

PORT WINE

WHITE PORT WINE

Full-bodied, aromatic and attractive wines with good ageing potential.

RED PORT WINE

From the beginning of August, the unusually high summer temperatures resulted in significant drops in production. However, the variety of microclimates in the Douro region, the resilience of our grape varieties and our picking teams' adaptability, meant that each variety was picked at optimum condition. Generally, the wines have a good colour and aroma, although the structure is less intense.

At Quinta de Ervamoira, the Touriga Nacional grape variety produced extremely aromatic, elegant and delicate wines. At Quinta do Bom Retiro, the grapes from this variety were concentrated and structured. The Touriga Francesa variety had trouble ripening, particularly at Quinta da Ervamoira, although in some of the more sheltered vines at higher altitudes, the quality was first-rate. Even though its sensitivity to heat, the Tinta Barroca grape variety, at Quinta do Bom Retiro, expressed itself beautifully.

In this complicated year, the Sousão grape variety showed exemplary maturation and, on fermenting with Touriga Nacional, led to fresher musts which gave rise to finely balanced wines with less alcohol content than usual. The Tinta Roriz and the Tinto Cão grape varieties performed very well, with small, concentrated grape berries, resulting in wines with a strong colour and aroma. Once again, Tinto Cão proved to be one of the more resistant and better adapted varieties, with fresh, aroma-filled, well balanced musts. As resistant as ever, the old vines gave rise to perfectly balanced wines, although lighter than usual. In conclusion, 2022 was one of the hardest years of the last decades, however, new winery equipment and the flexibility of the picking and winery teams, combined with good decisions, resulted in a balanced harvest with exceptional wines.



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“2022 was a difficult year. Startling at first but surprisingly positive at the end.”

João Luís Baptista

DOURO AND DURIENSE WINES

WHITE DOURO AND DURIENSE WINES

2022 was very heterogeneous in terms of maturation of the grape varieties, the types of soil, exposures and altitudes. As a rule, the production of white grapes was low, given the small size and low weight of the berries.

The Rabigato grape variety stands out as clearly being the most adapted to the sub-region of Douro Superior, and consequently figuring most prominently in Ramos Pinto white wines. The wines from the Rabigato parcels at Quinta dos Bons Ares were very fresh and fruity. The wines from the Arinto parcels at Quinta de Ervamoira, on the other hand, were less acid than in previous years, although vivacious and with an excellent expression of fruit.

RED DOURO AND DURIENSE WINES

2022 was also very heterogeneous in terms of maturation of the red grape varieties. Excessive heat and lack of water in the soil led to an atypical maturation. The Touriga Francesa grape variety, on the more exposed parcels at lower altitude at Quinta de Ervamoira, suffered the most. On the other hand, the Touriga Nacional variety in our best parcels at Quinta de Ervamoira was not affected, although maturation occurred later than the preceding year, but riper, with good acidity and intense flavour. At the parcels at a higher altitude with deeper soil, the Touriga Nacional and Touriga Francesa varieties suffered from the lack of water and excessive heat in the summer and, although very concentrated, were less productive. The harvest was late and ended between late September and early October.



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CONCLUSION

2022 was, without a doubt, a year of low production (an overall drop in the region of 28%, when compared to 2021) but very heterogenous regarding grape maturation. However, the final quantity was much better than expected at the start of the harvest.

With few exceptions, 2022 white Douro and duriense wines revealed considerable potential. Top of the range red wines also offer great prospects. The quality of the grape maturation, and the flavour, concentration and freshness of the wines have made us very confident.

2022 seems to be a year when the blend of our two estates will bring excellent wines, combining the concentration and structure of Quinta de Ervamoira with the acidity and aromatic freshness of Quinta dos Bons Ares.