

QUINTA DAS CARVALHAS

(DOURO, VISEU DISTRICT, NORTHERN PORTUGAL)

<http://realcompanhiavelha.pt/pages/quintas/4#>



Quinta das Carvalhas is one of the most emblematic and spectacular properties in the Douro Valley. Written references regarding this magnificent vineyard can be traced back to 1759. Enjoying a prominent position on the left bank of the Douro river, in Pinhão, the estate covers the entire hillside facing the Douro river and occupies part of the slopes of the right bank of the tributary Torto river.

Quinta das Carvalhas is characterized by very particular edaphoclimatic conditions. Its vines are located at various altitudes - extending from river border to the top of the slope. The largest vine surface of the Quinta faces a northern sun exposure, yet, another fraction of the vineyard, on the other side of the mountain, faces a southern exposure. Most of the parcels are planted in areas of deep inclination, with only a small fraction planted at a less inclined location, at the top of the hill. The viticultural heritage is constituted of almost-centennial vines of field blend, in which rare indigenous varieties are considered interesting repositories for an ampelographic variation. Younger vines are composed by distinguished varieties and benefit from a modern viticultural approach.

Touriga Nacional 2016

CSPC# 784065

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|------------------------|
| Chemical Analysis | Acidity: 4.7 g/l | pH: 3.70 | Residual Sugar: 2.2g/l |
| Grape Variety | 100% <i>Touriga Nacional</i> | | |
| Vineyards | The Touriga Nacional parcels present at the estate represent for 55 acres having North and South exposure. | | |
| Vintage | The year began with a warm, wet winter and at the start of the growing season the vines looked very advanced. Then followed a cold, wet spring which cut yields and made for concentration in the wines. The summer months were hot and dry with a heat wave in August lasting into early September. The hottest day of the year in Pinhão was 6th September when a temperature of 43°C was recorded with 9% humidity. Sugar readings in August were low due to photosynthesis having been slowed by the extreme heat but rain in on 25th and 26th August helped put things back on track, especially in the Douro Superior. More welcome rain came on 12th and 13th September, and this proved to be the saving grace. Anyone who picked too early was unlikely to get the balance and freshness that came from harvesting evenly ripened grapes and there are one or two wines from this vintage that taste both green and raisiny at the same time. The growers that delayed picking to allow the rain to soak in and the grapes to swell took a significant risk as the equinox often brings more unstable weather. But when quality conscious growers and producers resumed picking around 22nd September the sun was shining and continued to shine brightly into October. Crucially the nights were cool. Rain only returned on 13th October by which time the last of the grapes had been picked. | | |
| Vinification/ Maturation | A careful selection of Touriga Nacional grapes is fermented in medium size stainless-steel tanks at controlled temperature to be aged partially (50%) in new French oak barrels for 12 months. | | |
| Tasting Notes | The aromas are multilayered and intense: black cherries, wild berries, ripe fruit, tobacco, smoke, and a hint of animal notes (leather), complemented by delicate alcoholic notes reminiscent of rum pot. This first impression is reflected in the mouth, where the powerful but ripe tannins meet a fresh fruity structure. The sensory impression is fascinating and has many facets. In the long-lasting finish, this varietal wine offers a lot: substance, body, structure, and class. | | |
| Serve with Production | Enjoy this powerful and vibrant Touriga Nacional with red meat, game, and cheeses. 7,500 cases made. | | |



Cellaring Store bottles on their sides in a cool place away from direct light. Serve at 18°C.

Scores/Awards **88 points** - Gillian Sciaretta, Wine Spectator - November 2019

91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - November 2019

93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2021

Reviews *"This medium- to full-bodied red offers a nice mix of savory and fruit flavors, with steeped raspberry and currant fruit interwoven with graphite, cedar and licorice details, displaying hints of violet on the moderately tannic finish. Drink now through 2023. 7,500 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This Touriga Nacional, made exclusively from grapes grown in a North-facing hillside of the Quinta, expresses the fresh varietal character with floral and bergamot notes dominant over riper fruit flavours of blueberries. It is intense, deep and complex offering great pleasure to enjoy while young and vibrant, although it will certainly reward patient cellaring."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a finely textured wine, just approaching maturity but its tannins and perfumes are impressive. The spectacular vineyard on the southern bank of the Douro has given a ripe wine, packed with black fruits and with a fine future. Drink from 2022."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast
