

QUINTA das MAIAS

Serra da Estrela

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"A revolution has been taking place in the vineyards & cellars of Portugal...nothing short of astonishing!"

—Jancis Robinson, *Jancis Robinson Tastes the Best Portuguese Table Wines.*



Rui Reguinga admiring some young vines in a pine-fringed vineyard typical of the Dão



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Portugal

DÃO
Beira Alta

OVERVIEW

Quinta das Maias has been part of the family-owned and operated wine estate of Quinta dos Roques since they purchased it in 1997. The wines from Maias have been produced and bottled at Roques under the separate Maias label since 1992. Located just 42 miles from Roques winery, Maias comprises 86 contiguous acres at an elevation of 1500 to 1800 feet in the foothills of the Serra da Estrela mountains, providing excellent daily temperature variation for ripening the 5-30 year old vines. Since 1897, the land and the name has been noted in land registers. Vineyards covered much of the area and the old cellar's solid granite walls reflect over a century of harvests. Much of the old production equipment has been renovated and incorporated into an onsite museum. The brilliant yellow flowers of the "Maias" the May (Mai) flowers called Scotch Broom, that surround the vineyards every spring have naturally become a part of the graphics on the label. This charming and serene location is gradually being restored and enhanced by Luis Lourenço, the manager for all the Quinta dos Roques' properties. He is ably assisted by the same staff from Roques—Cellar Master João Santiago and Winemaker Rui Reguinga, with the "father" of the vineyards, Manuel Oliveira providing his viticultural expertise. Maias particularly has 30 acres of old vine vineyards (dominated by the Jaen variety) at a higher altitude than the vineyards of dos Roques. The two properties make wines different in character but of a similar high standard.

WINES

Quinta das Maias White

Beginning with the 2000 vintage, this stunning blend of top Dão white varieties shows just how big a difference can be achieved with careful grape selection. A wine with powerful perfume, rich fruit and complex structure. A tremendous value made from Malvasia Fina (50%), Encruzado (30%), Verdelho (15%), and Cercial (5%).

Quinta das Maias Tinto

20% Touriga, with 80% of the powerful, rich Jaen (Mencia). This powerful and good value red wine has flavors that stand up to the most challenging sauces and spices. It was aged 9 months on new Portuguese oak. Another tremendous value!

INFORMATION ON THE DÃO:

In the northern center of Portugal, the Dão DOC is one of the country's oldest and most famous wine regions, dating back to Roman times. Grapes are grown in very granitic soil, the best in the foothills of the Serra da Estrela mountains. Many vineyards are planted on south facing slopes to take full advantage of the sun. Sheltered by mountains, creating its own micro-climate, the high plateau of the Dão enjoys hot, dry summers and very cold winters with good rainfall. Other than a few estates like Roques, 90% of the vineyards are 2 acres or less.

ACCOLADES

"Owner Luis Lourenço is the genial owner of this well known estate. Talented winemaker Rui Reguinga helps things along as well. I think this estate is going to get better and better. Note that Luis bought Quinta das Maias in 1997. The wines are made at Roques by the same team."

The Wine Advocate

Regarding the Maias Tinto..."What a crowd pleaser. Bursting with fruit but with complexity & depth, too. It has as many curves as Goya's Maja."

Jeff Frees, Quarterly Review of Wines.

Varieties:

Red: Jaen (Mencia), Tinto Cão, Roriz(Tempranillo), Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro

White: Malvasia Fina, Verdelho, Barcelo, Encruzado

Total Acreage: about 86 acres

Average Production: about 10,000 cases