

QUINTA dos ROQUES

Abrunhosa do Mato

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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.*



Luis Lourenço



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Portugal

DÃO
Beira Alta

OVERVIEW

Quinta dos Roques and its co-owned winery, Quinta das Maías, are leading a revolution by producing high quality seriously regarded Portuguese wines that have set the standard for all the rest of the producers. Located at Abrunhosa do Mato (between Nelas and Mangualde), Quinta dos Roques' 100 acres of winery and vineyards spread out in 12 plots over the 1400-foot elevation of the granitic hills at this center of the Dão wine region. About 75% of the vineyards are devoted to red grape varieties, dominated by Touriga Nacional (40%), followed by Roriz (Tempranillo), Alfrocheiro, Jaen (Mencia), Tinto Cão and Tinta Pinheira. The remaining 25% are white varieties, where Encruzado prevails (40%), followed by Malvasia Fina, Bical & Cercial. Wine production from the Roques vineyards is bottled under Quinta dos Roques or a second label, Quinta do Correio. The Roques labels are devoted to the best selections of each year of harvest, with oak ageing of the red wines.

Varieties:

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

White: Encruzado, Malvasia Fina, Bical, Cercial

Total Acreage: 100 acres

Average Production: about 16,000 cases

WINES

Quinta dos Roques Tinto

A blend of Jaen and Touriga Nacional, with smaller amounts of Alfrocheiro Preto, Tinta Roriz, fermented in stainless steel and then aged 12 months in French barriques. Touches of herbs and caraway seeds in a dark, black fruited wine. The palate is quite Rhône-like, with a raspberry edge to the fruit & plenty of spice & brambly fruit.

Quinta dos Roques Reserva

A blend of Touriga Nacional (55%), Jaen (Mencia), Alfrocheiro Preto, Tinta Roriz and Tinto Cão. Stainless steel fermentation is followed by 14 months in a blend of new and second fill French barrels. Lovely big cherry, smoky, deeply set briar and plush berry fruit on the nose. There's a jammy, thick strawberry pulp sweetness, and a very inviting, open character. The chocolaty, thick tannins coat the mouth in this wine, with lots of spice and dryness.

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, separated by small vilages and pine forests.

ACCOLADES

"Luis Lourenco is the genial owner of this well-known estate...talented winemaker Rui Reguina helps things along as well...I think this estate is going to get better & better."
The Wine Advocate

The Reserva was rated one of the three Best Reds of the Dão, 10 Best of Portugal and a runner-up to The 12 Best Wines in the World by an international panel organized by the Portuguese Academy of Gastronomy (Jancis Robinson was on the panel)

2003 Reserva—92pts and "100 Best Wines for Cellaring"

Wine Enthusiast

"Quinta dos Roques is one of the leading producers in its region."

The Wine Advocate