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## THE INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW'S TOP 50 PORTUGUESE WINES



Last year Vini Portugal invited us to taste the wines of Portugal at their source. The result was our [Report #24 The New Wines of Portugal](#). Based on our visit to every major wine producing region of the country and after tasting over 500 wines, we've selected our top 50, organized by their region of origin. As we noted in the report, Portugal has made dramatic improvements in its table wines from all regions, not just the Douro. We were especially impressed with several newer producers we found in the Alentejo, Vinho Verde, and elsewhere. The full tasting notes

on these wines can be found at [i-winereview.com/tastingArchive/](http://i-winereview.com/tastingArchive/). [Pictured here—Mike and Don in the Douro.]

Our 50 top wines are mainly current releases, many of which are available in the US. We scored most of these wines at 91 points or above on our 100 point scale. Of course, each year Vini Portugal asks a distinguished taster to select his or her top 50 wines. For 2009 that taster was Sarah Ahmed; for 2010 it was Tom Cannavan, both from the UK. Our top 50 wines cut across the vintages the two of them tasted. Also, what's available in the UK, where these tasters are based, and what we had access to in the US and in Portugal differ. Our results are especially relevant for Portuguese wines available in the US market.

Of the 500 wines we tasted, a large number scored 90 points and above. In other words, a remarkably high percentage of Portuguese wines are of excellent quality. In addition, as noted in our report, Portuguese wines are also very good values in terms of quality relative to cost.

### Vinho Verde

Anselmo Mendes Vinhos 2009 Contacto Alvarinho Vinho Verde

Quinta de Gomariz 2009 Avesso Vinho Verde

Quinta do Ameal 2008 Escolha Vinho Verde

Quinta do Soalheiro 2008 Primeiras Vinhas Vinho Verde

Quinta do Soalheiro 2008 Alvarinho Reserva Vinho Verde

### Douro

CARM 2007 Grande Reserva Douro

Casa Ferreirinha 2000 Barca Velha Douro

Lemos & Van Zeller 2008 Quinta do Vale Dona Maria Douro

Lemos & Van Zeller 2008 Curriculum Vitae Douro

Muxugat 2008 Vinho Branco Douro

Niepoort 2008 Batuta Douro

Niepoort 2004 Robustus Douro

Poeira 2008 Poeira Douro

**Prats and Symington 2007 Chryseia Douro**

### Future Reports

#### Report #30

#### The Wines of South Africa

South Africa has been making world class wines for three hundred years. Today it makes some of the world's best Chenin Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, Red Blends and, of course, Pinotage. In this report we examine the progress of South African wine over the past quarter century with special focus on the new winemakers that are refashioning the image and quality of South African wine.

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