

CASA SANTA EUFÉMIA

An anomaly in a region where most producers source their grapes, Casa de Santa Eufemia, a grower port estate, was founded in 1894 by Bernardo Rodrigues de Carvalho. Located on the left bank of the Douro, in one of the oldest demarcated wine regions in the world, Santa Eufemia is now run by the sibling duo, Pedro and Lucia Carvalho.



Growing grapes and producing port since the estate's inception, it wasn't until 1986 when Portugal joined the EU that Casa de Santa Eufemia could legally vinify, bottle and sell or export the wine that it had been making for years. Within the 30ha of field blends (of 20+ varietals) that are designated to the production of port wines, Pedro and Lucia cultivate varietals that are nearing extinction in Portugal, including Bastardo, Mourisco Tinto, Tinta Amarela, Tinta Barroca and Tinta Carvalha.

In addition to the preservation of said grapes and more, the Carvalhos have also identified sub-plots within their vineyards, each known by the duo to produce specific colors, aromatics and structure, so that each sub-plot can be designated to a particular Tawny port. And though the foundations of the 20 and 30 year-old tawny ports were established long before Pedro and Lucia started making wine, Pedro says that they have "preserved the style that the house has been making all along."

LATE BOTTLED VINTAGE



Varietal/Blend: Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca, Tinto cão, Tinta Amarela, Tinta Francisca

Farming: practicing organic

Soil: schist

Vine Age: 25+ years

Yeast: indigenous

Fermentation: destemmed and crushed / fermentation in stainless steel tanks with controlled temperature.

Aging: aged in old chestnut wood barrels

Alcohol: 20.0%

Fined: none

Filtered: none

Production #s: 2,000 cases

Typically ready to drink when released, LBV ports are the product of a single year's harvest and tend to be lighter bodied than a vintage port. Filtered LBVs can improve with age, but only to a limited degree. Purple color, red fruit aromas very ripe (blackberries, red plum, figs), in the mouth it is a full bodied and round wine with a long and persistent finish.

Country: Portugal

Region: Douro

Sub Region: Cima Corgo

Vineyard: Letra A + B

Vineyard Size: 4.5 hectares