

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+ varieties) that are designated to the production of port wines, Pedro and Lucia cultivate varieties 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."

DOURO RESERVA 2011



TINTO



Varietal/Blend: Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca, & Bastardo

Farming: practicing organic

Harvest Technique: hand-picked, grapes transported in small cases

Soil: schist

Vine Age: 35+ years

Yeast: indigenous

Fermentation: fermentation starts in granite, 4000kg 'Lagares' / finishes in stainless steel vats / 14 days at cold temperatures

Aging: 6 months in oak 50% French / the rest in stainless

Alcohol 14 %

Fined: none

Filtered: none

Production #s: 8,660 bottles

"The nose highlights red fruits (plum, raspberry, add a little blackberry) and some mineral notes associated with Touriga Nacional. Palate: Balanced tannins allowing expectation of longevity. Despite the intensity, very well integrated. Structured with a long finish and great complexity highlighting the spicy aroma of Touriga Nacional." Winemaker's notes

Country: Portugal

Region: Alto Douro –classified by UNESCO in 2001 as World Heritage Site, producing wine since the 3rd Century

Vineyard: Vale do Conde

Vineyard Size: 4.5 hectares