

Alta Onda

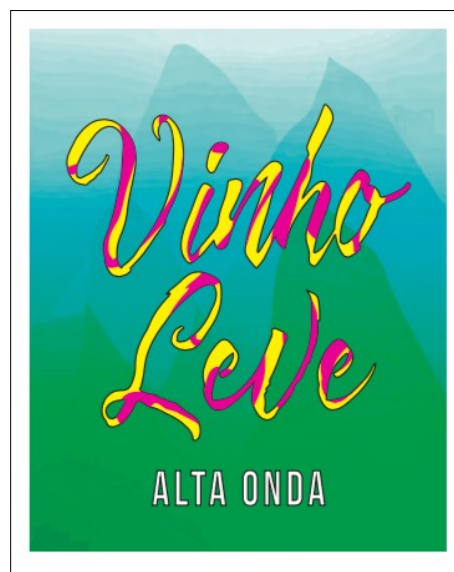
The locals living around the Lisbon DO of Portugal frequently enjoy Vinho Leve wines. All producers make their own version of this quaffable, low-ABV wine, often opening up their wineries to locals to come fill a jug to take home or to the beach. But what is Vinho Leve? Literally translated to “light wine”, the energy of the wine can't be. The cool climate influence of the Atlantic boosts up the natural acidity of the fruit and subsequent wine and the mineral rich soils provide the salinity and substance.



For the Portuguese, there is a saying that “Winter holidays in the west.” Tourists to the beaches of Lisbon are regularly surprised to find that summer temperatures are much milder compared to the scorching temperature of interior. While the misty mornings and occasional clouds may lead surfers to wear warming gear, the grape vines thrive and produce balanced wines of a natural acidity.

When the day warms up, locals and holiday visitors both enjoy the young, slightly effervescent white and rosé Vinho Leve wines alongside fresh seafood straight off the boat. The Alta Onda wines are made by the A.C. Vermelha cooperative that combines the resources of small family vineyards averaging less than 1 hectare a piece. Local white varieties typically include Arinto, Fernão Pires, Malvasia, Seara-Nova, and Moscatel. The reds include Aragonês (Tempranillo) and Castelão in addition to the smaller representation of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Miúda and Trincadeira.

VINHO LEVE ROSÉ



Varietal/Blend: 70% Aragonez / 30% Castelão

Farming Practices: conventional

Altitude / Exposure: varied

Soil: limestone rich soils

Harvest Technique: by hand

Yeast: selected

Fermentation: gentle pressing to tank for temperature
controlled fermentation

Malolactic: none

Maturation: bottled early to retain some CO₂ in solution

Alcohol: 9.5%

Fined: no

Filtered: yes

Country: Portugal

Region: Lisbon