

2017 QUINTA DOS ROQUES ENCRUZADO WHITE WINE



Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée DÃO

Vintage and harvest: 2017 will be remembered in climate terms as one of the driest and hottest years in weather records. With the exception of February and May, where we had a normal rainfall, all the other months were dryer than usual with September beating them all with 0.0mm of rain. The dry weather brought with it an almost disease-free growing season and a very good fruit set which led to a nice and much needed increase in quantity. In a such hot year, hydric stress was one of our main concerns but nature surprised us (again) and until the beginning of September there were no signs in the vineyards of lack of water (in “normal” years hydric stress sometimes appears in mid of August). Due to these weather conditions, maturation speeded up and thus we began harvest on August 22 (the earliest date ever). Naturally, we were worried about the eventual consequences on the grapes balance but fortunately those concerns were proved unfounded as we picked very healthy grapes with good alcohol levels and astonishingly high acidity. The good weather allowed us to make a slow and relaxed harvest that eventually ended on Sept. 21. The wines, both whites and reds, reflect the quality of the grapes with very bright colours, clean flavours, sharp acidity and very well balanced.

Grape varieties: Encruzado (100%)

Winemaking technology: crushing of the grapes with partial destemming, followed by a soft pressing in automatic press. The must was clarified by the action of gravity and decantation; fermentation with selected yeasts occurred part (50%) in French oak barrels during 7 month with “batonnage” 2 times a week and the other 50% in stainless steel vats at a controlled temperature of 16-18° C.

Bottling: the preparation of the wine for bottling consisted of a slight “collage”, a tartaric stabilisation by the action of the cold and a light filtration. Bottled in August 2018.

Analysis:

Alcohol by volume (alc. / vol.):	14.2%
Total Acidity (g / l C ₄ H ₆ O ₆):	5.80
Volatile Acidity (g / l C ₂ H ₄ O ₂):	0.20
Dry Extract (g / l):	21.9

Organoleptic tasting: light straw perfectly clear; with an elegant bouquet of fruits and a slight touch of resin. On the palate the first impression is of freshness but immediately we recognise the great structure and complexity of the wine. The finish is very long and persistent.

Aptitudes: a wine to satisfy the fans of young wines, though it will gain immensely with a few years in bottle.

Service: it should be served at a temperature of 12-14°C, and accompanying seafood, strong fish dishes and spicy food.