

Porta Dos Cavaleiros Tinto



Porta dos Cavaleiros is Caves São João's paean to the Dão. Using time-honored techniques and indigenous varietals, the Costa family has been a mainstay in Portuguese winemaking for the better part of a century. Caves São João launched Porta dos Cavaleiros in the 1950s, capitalizing on long-standing agreements with growers in the Dão. The reds utilize Alfrocheiro, Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz (Tempranillo) and Jaen (Mencía), and the whites use Bical, Cercial, Malvasia and Encruzado. The Costa family's notoriously steadfast approach, along with considerable resources available to them due to their long history in Portugal, allowed them to continue producing and cellaring wine in the Dão through a number of shifts in the market for these wines. As a result, we have access to perfectly aged, mature wines that are an amazing piece of Portugal's viticultural history -pristine examples of mature wines with profound finesse and irreplicable complexity. Caves São João is the only winery in Portugal offering library releases of still wines commercially, with vintages going back to the 1950s.

WHAT MAKES THIS WINE UNIQUE?: Perfectly aged Dão red, exhibiting all the hallmarks of a mature wine that has been impeccably stored. Made in a style that predates the modern push toward big fruit and alcohol, instead exemplifying the elegance and terroir driven wines that predominated Portuguese winemaking prior to the early 1990s.

RATING HISTORY: 1985 90 W&S

GRAPE: 40% Alfrocheiro, 25% Tinta Roriz, 25% Baga, 25% Preto de Mortagua. Planted in granite and schist soil at 450m elevation.

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Roasted or braised meats and game. Truffles and mushrooms are particularly good pairing highlights.

VINIFICATION AND AGING: Open top fermentation with extended macerations. 24 months aging in cement tanks before being filtered and bottled.

LOCATION, SOIL, CLIMATE: These vineyards are planted in the Dão, which has one of the best microclimates for viticulture in all of Portugal. Surrounded on all sides by 3 different mountain ranges, the Dão is completely protected from cold wind and rain from the Atlantic as well as Continental storms. Warm and dry throughout the first part of the growing season, the late summer grows rapidly cooler, which allows for slower maturation of fruit and longer hangtime. The region might well have been created with winemaking in mind. The vineyards are between 400 and 800m of elevation high in the hills, and are planted on decomposed schist and granite, giving the wines hallmark acidity and minerality.

TASTING NOTES Bright red-garnet. On the nose, dried cherry, rose petal, tobacco, white pepper and flint. On the palate, elegant flavors of dried red berry and fresh Rainier cherry are at the core of a swirling combination of floral notes, mineral, pipe tobacco and forest floor. Balancing acidity and excellent length.

ALCOHOL CONTENT: 12.5%

UPC CODE: 5601831202295

