



## QUINTA DO VESUVIO

Quinta do Vesuvio is one of the most magnificent estates in the Douro valley, and stands alone both in terms of remoteness and sheer grandeur. Historical records mention Vesuvio as far back as 1565. However, it was primarily under the auspices of the Douro's redoubtable widow, Dona Antónia Adelaide Ferreira in the 19th Century that this vineyard estate acquired its legendary reputation and under her management became the showpiece Quinta of the Douro. In 1989, Quinta do Vesuvio was purchased by the Symington family whose involvement in the growing, production and shipping of Port had begun more than a century before and down 13 generations through their great grandmother, Beatrice Atkinson. Since 1989 some of the greatest Vintage Ports of the Douro have been produced at this Quinta.

### TERROIR

The Quinta possesses an enviable terroir, the unique interaction of microclimate and soil, aspect and numerous other characteristics which at Vesuvio combine in such a way as to create ideal conditions for the production of consistently superb wines. It is located in the austere beauty of the eastern reaches of the Upper Douro valley, 120 kms east of Oporto and 45 from the Spanish Border. Vesuvio commands a spectacular site on the south bank of the river Douro, between the Numão and Lavandeira castles. A striking and varied topography dominated by seven prominent hills with steep gradients, interspersed with winding valleys. Elevation ranges from 130 metres up to 530 metres.

The climate is dry, with extremes of heat and cold. Very hot summers. A low annual rainfall (400mm).

The soil's main component is schist, a laminated slate-like rock.

### WINEMAKING

The 'adega' or winery was built on a massive, unprecedented scale and concluded in 1827.

- 100% traditional methods – only foot treading.
- 8 granite 'lagares' – holding 24 pipes of must each.
- Full complement of 40-50 treaders.
- Stainless steel cooling system to guarantee ideal fermentation temperatures (28-30°C).

In 2006 the Quinta produced 533 pipes of must, which is equivalent to approximately 40,800 cases of 9 litres.

### WINES

The Ports made at Vesuvio stand alone amongst all the wines from the Douro. Year after year this vineyard produces incredibly rich and concentrated Ports with quite exceptional balance and length. The unique combination of location, soil, the varietal composition and traditional treading, result in the very special Ports of Vesuvio. The wines are uniformly excellent, with superb inky black-red colours when young, the nose is always intense, with strong notes of violets and wild spring flowers. The taste is long, complex and rich, with layers of flavours that persist on the palate. Blueberry and blackcurrant flavours combine with rich bitter-chocolate to add structure to the Vesuvio Ports. Ultimately the Vesuvio Ports are seamless, with perfect integration and with a velvet-like texture on the palate.

### VINEYARD CHARACTERISTICS

All of the property is "A-rated", the highest possible designation.

Size	325 ha in total & 138 ha under vine
Percentage Vineyard Area by Varietal	Touriga Nacional 29,6%; Touriga Franca 20,4%; Tinta Barroca 19%; Tinta Roriz 18,6%; Mixed Varieties 4,1%; Old vines 3,3%; Tinta Amarela 2,7%; Sousão 1,9%; Tinto Cão 0,4%
Number of Vines	366,315 - All grapes are picked by hand
Vineyard Layout	82% Modern terraces (Patamares) • 15% Vertical planting • 3% Traditional terraces
Age of Vines	New plantings 10 years average; old vines 30 to 40 years on average.