

WINE DESCRIPTION

DOW'S 1945 VINTAGE PORT


ESTABLISHED 1798

DOW'S PORT

Dow's

Dow's is owned and managed by the fourth generation of the Symington family, Port producers since the 19th Century. The family, whose experience dates back over 100 years, supervises all the vineyards, winemaking and ageing of this wine.

Dow's owns two of the Douro's finest Quintas, Senhora da Ribeira and Bomfim. They were acquired in 1890 and 1896, making Dow's one of the first houses to invest in premium vineyards.

Tasting Notes

One of the best of the century, rivalling 1912. This wine was mostly bottled in Oporto due to shipping restrictions. Excellent garnet colour with a ruby centre.

Great aromatic concentration and complexity, showing plummy aromas, hints of maple syrup, cocoa and spice. On the palate incredible depth and length with ripe fruit flavours and a steely backbone of tannins.

The Viticultural Year

A dry year, with a very hot summer. Rain came at the very end of August. The weather conditions were perfect for a very early harvest at the beginning of September. The yields were low, but the quality was superb.

Reviews & Awards

"Palish, warm rose-hip colour...lean, very dry finish."

Michael Broadbent, *Vintage Wine*, Published 2002

"... seemed indestructable, with extraordinary strength and a real "bite" at the end. The bouquet is pure "wine and roses" – completely classic. Such huge dimension, structure and impact and utterly balanced between damson fruit and power."

Serena Sutcliffe, *A Century of Vintage Port*, 2002

Classic – 97 Points out of 100

"Gorgeous, glorious and rich. Dark ruby in colour, with an amber edge. Full-bodied and wonderfully sweet, with intense aromas of raisin, raspberry and cherry and a long, long finish. Very rich and very fine."

James Suckling, *Wine Spectator*, December 31st 1999

"Deep ruby with a garnet hue, a raisin and licorice nose, full-bodied, with raisin and licorice flavors. Slightly hot on the finish."

James Suckling, *Vintage Port*, Published 1990

Peter Symington, responsible with his son Charles for the vineyards and wine making, has been made 'Fortified Wine Maker of the Year' an extraordinary 6 times by the 'Wine Challenge'. Nobody else has won this important award more than twice. In 2003, his son Charles won the same award.

Vintage Overview

A superlative Vintage. The quality in the Douro Valley reflected that of most other wine growing regions in Europe. The 1945 vintage is one of the superb 'reference years' by which all other Vintage Ports are judged. Declared by all the major Port houses.

Contemporary Family Comments

"The vintage started on September 6th. The weather throughout was exceptionally hot. In spite of the heat it was only during two days that high temperatures were registered in the lagares, and the precautions had to be taken. The 'mostos' (musters) seem quite good and the colour fairly good".

Ronald A Symington
17th September 1945

Wine Specifications

Alcohol: 21% vol (20°C)

Total acidity: 3.38 g/l tartaric acid

Baumé: 2.8.

