

## WINE DESCRIPTION

# DOW'S 1955 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

Vibrant garnet colour. On the nose blackberry, plum and chocolate aromas, combined with floral hints such as violets. On the palate excellent length, good acidity supporting the fruit flavours and a persistent finish.

### The Viticultural Year

After the February rain there was a heat wave in April and in the first half of May, which was again followed by rain. The vines flowered well and had the benefit of further rain in June. July was satisfactory, and August hot, with the grapes in good condition.

It was very hot throughout the harvest and the quantity was less than expected, though the grapes showed quality from the start.

### Reviews & Awards

#### Five Stars (Outstanding)

"...a superb bottle at the bicentenary tasting. I could not fault it".

Michael Broadbent, *Vintage Wine*, Published 2002

"Very young colour for the vintage at this age. Fresh, red fruit nose turning smoky. Classic...Such a nostalgic bouquet. So rich and damsin-like. Fascinating raisins. Lovely velvet texture. Redcurrants finish....Complete fruit, roses and liquorice...luscious, berrish and fruity."

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

#### 18.5 Points out of 20

"Medium-full colour. Ample, plump nose. Fresh. Fruity. Very stylish. Very poised. Medium-full body. Excellent grip Ripe and succulent. Long and classy. Very complex. Very fine."

Clive Coates, *The Vine*, December 2000

#### Outstanding – 92 Points

"I have always loved this wine. Dark ruby in colour, with a brick rim and lovely aromas of cherry, blackberry and flowers. Full-bodied and sweet, with loads of fruit and a long, long finish. Still in a holding pattern."

James Suckling, *Wine Spectator*, December 31<sup>st</sup> 1999

"Plenty of fruit and a solid backbone. Brilliant ruby-garnet, with a rich tomato and cassis nose, full-bodied, with tons of fruit flavors, medium tannins and a rich 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

Outstanding fruit driven wines for long-term ageing. A real pleasure to drink now or over the next few decades. One of the most underrated Vintages of the 20th Century. Declared by most of the major Port houses.

### Contemporary Family comments

"Vines looking wonderful, both bunches and grapes are much larger than last year. A few showers between now and the vintage should produce an excellent 1955."

Ronald Symington  
15th August 1955

### Wine Specifications

**Alcohol:** 21% vol (20°C)

**Total acidity:** 3.98 g/l Tartaric acid

**Baumé:** 3.1

