

## WINE DESCRIPTION

# DOW'S 1991 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

Due to the summer heat, yields were well down on previous years. Consequently only a small quantity of Dow's 1991 Vintage Port was bottled. The wine is in the great tradition of Dow's Vintage Ports; it is very dark with very good colour colour, excellent balance of tannins and acidity and an exceptionally attractive and concentrated nose. This Vintage has structure and quality, placing it amongst the finest Vintages produced in the post-war years.

### The Viticultural Year

The 1991 harvest was a very good one, the winter had proved wetter than usual with 9.93 inches in the first quarter measured at Quinta do Bomfim. Heavy winter rainfall has always been a major factor in good vintages. The spring was dry and warm and a hot summer followed. However, substantial rain fell at Bomfim and adjoining districts on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September and again on the weekend of the 21-22 September. This rainfall was of immense benefit.

### Reviews & Awards

#### 18 Points out of 20

"Round, ripe, attractive nose. Nice and fresh. Good weight...Rich, composed and very elegant...it is very long and harmonious. Very classy."

Clive Coates M.W, The Vine N°231, April 2004

#### 91 Points out of 100

"One of the great buys in young vintages of Dow. Dark and powerful, its aromas of ripe berry, cherry and raspberry open to a full-bodied palate, with firm tannins and a long, sweet finish."

James Suckling, The Wine Spectator, December 1999

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

It had been six years since the previous declaration when Dow declared its 1991. This was the longest gap between declarations since the Second World War. In the 58 years from 1945 to 2000 we have only declared 17 Vintages.

### Contemporary Family comments

"The depth and quality of colours and aroma this year is perhaps the best since 1985, with great intensity and a purple hue. In general grapes contained little juice, thus the skin to juice ratio during fermentation was high, giving rise to highly coloured and tannic wines".

Michael D Symington  
October 1991

### Wine Specifications

**Alcohol:** 20% vol (20°C)

**Total acidity:** 4.35 g/l tartaric acid

**Baumé:** 3.3

