

WINE DESCRIPTION

WARRE'S 2003 VINTAGE PORT

WARRE'S

FOUNDED 1670 IN OPORTO

P O R T



Warre's

Warre's, founded in 1670, was the first British Port company established in Portugal and therefore the pioneer of a great tradition; its history is synonymous with that of Port itself. Warre's Ports are distinguished for their structure, power and softly perfumed nose. They have a particularly fresh and elegant style. Warre's premium wines are sourced from Quinta da Cavadinha and Quinta do Retiro Antigo, two of the finest estates of the Douro valley. Warre's Vintage Ports are renowned the world over for their excellence and are consistently placed amongst the best in comparative tastings.

Tasting Notes

Very deep crimson colour. Rich fresh herbal aromas of gum cistus. Penetrating taste of vibrant blackberry flavours, very spicy with an abundance of tannins and sweetness conveying enormous complexity of flavours. Powerful combination of freshness, elegance and a long, firm finish.

The Viticultural Year

The winter leading up to the 2003 declaration was very wet with double the normal rainfall from November through to February. Average temperatures throughout the year were higher than normal. A mild Winter and a warm Spring gave rise to an early budburst in mid March, excellent flowering conditions and continued hot weather were of great benefit to the development of the bunches, and some most welcome rain refreshed the vineyards in July. Further intense heat enveloped the Douro region in August and the month finished with a little rain, to conclude a superb meteorological year.

The grapes ripened early, but under ideal conditions, and the grapes entering the robotic lagares were clearly destined for great wines. The vintage started at Cavadinha on October 3rd. This is about two weeks later than our other Quintas and is explained by the fact that Cavadinha is at a higher altitude and is a later ripening vineyard that benefits from this extra period of maturation.

The six new stainless steel robotic lagares produced a very high standard of wine and some of our very best lots were produced at Cavadinha.

Reviews & Awards

"Very grapey and tannic, yet the tannins are silky and refined. Full, firm and medium-sweet, this is racy and refined."

Wine Spectator Online, James Suckling, 18-04-05

Richard Mayson's best 2003s

"Closed, dense with plenty to give; very fine, pure berry fruit backed by strong, sinewy tannins. Great poise and a lovely wine for the medium-to-long term."

Richard Mayson, Premium Drinks Mag., August 2005

93 Points out of 100

"Black pepper, spices, and toast are found in the nose of the potentially exceptional 2003 Warre Vintage Port. A concentrated, backward effort, its youthful, classically ungenerous, masculine character reveals black pepper laced dark fruits. Silky-textured in its immensely endowed mid-palate, this top-flight effort displays an admirably long, tannin-filled finish. It will require serious cellaring."

Pierre Rovani, Wine Advocate #161, October 2005

93+ Points out of 100

"Demonstrates an unyielding, reserved nose which improved significantly with lots of airtime and offered fragrant red berry fruit, mocha and a bit of spirit. Warre's '03 is a full-bodied Port, whose foundation is a super structure. In fact, it is the most tannic of the Symington's "Big 3". It possesses vibrant acidity, is deftly balanced and has the grip and characteristics to cellar for the long haul. This Port reveals very sweet raspberry, cherry and a distinct black pepper nuance that play out to support the tannic and long lasting finish."

Roy Hersh, www.fortheloveofport.com, July 2005

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

The 2003 wines have great 'traditional' tannic structure with attractive ripe fruit flavours - classic Vintage Port. A general declaration.

Contemporary Family Comments

"Warre's first Vintage blend, to be partly made up with wine produced in the Symington Robotic Lagares at the remodelled Quinta da Cavadinha Winery. A wine with immense finesse and elegance showing all the hallmarks of a great Warre Vintage".

Charles Symington
May 2005

Wine Specifications

Alcohol: 20% vol (20°C)

Total acidity: 4.58 g/l tartaric acid

Baumé: 3.8

