

## News from Wines of Portugal UK

### Discover a World of Difference



We are busy planning our upcoming Discover a World of Difference tastings taking place in the run up to Christmas.

Held in local restaurants and wine merchants, Discover a World of Difference sees a team of helpful ambassadors – Sarah Ahmed, Charles Metcalfe and Neil Phillips – conduct food and wine matching events.

This year our events are focusing on London and the South East so if you sell wine, or run a restaurant in, or near this area and would like to find out more, please [email us](#).

### And the Winner Is...

Congratulations to Cambridge Wine Merchants, The Good Wine Shop, The Portuguese Conspiracy, SH Jones and Carruthers & Kent – winners of the Wines of Portugal Independent Retailer promotion in association with Off Licence News.



The winning retailers scoop £1,000 worth of stock and have been championing Portuguese wines in-store throughout October.

Well done to everyone who took part!

### Taste outstanding wines from Portugal at Decanter's flagship Fine Wine Encounter



Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th November 2014, 11am – 5pm

This November, Decanter will be holding its flagship wine tasting event in London – the Decanter Fine Wine Encounter. This prestigious tasting brings together premium wineries from all over the world in an unrivalled event of its kind. Winemakers will be flying in from Chile, New Zealand,

Argentina, South Africa, USA, Italy, Spain, France, Portugal and many other countries to showcase their top wines. Portuguese wineries in attendance include Graham's Port, Taylor's and Blandy's Madeira, each bringing an array of top wines to pour.

The tasting is held in the elegant setting of the 5-star Landmark Hotel in Marylebone and visitors are able to walk around and taste wines at their leisure. It's an incredible opportunity to discover some of the world's best wines and to compare stand-out wines from different countries side by side. Tickets are only £60 for a full day of wine tasting and informal tutored tastings are also available in the Discovery Theatre. To book tickets click [here](#)

### News from our Producers and Importers



#### The Year of the Fox

Paul Symington reflects on the Year of the Fox. Click [here](#) for his report on a challenging harvest in the Douro.

#### Happy Birthday Quinta Noval

Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo, is celebrating its 250 year anniversary! A historic winery, modernised in 1764, Quinta Nova is a beautiful estate situated on the north bank of the Douro river and proudly owned by the Amorim family – a Portuguese family who have been creating history in the cork world since 1970. To celebrate its

success, Quinta Nova has produced a 250 year anniversary 2011 Colheita, with a uniquely designed label which has been shipped for sale in the UK by The Wine Society.

Marta Vine Rewards Independents

Marta Vine is delighted to announce the winners of its independent retailer promotion. Congratulations to Carruthers and Kent, Cornelius Wines, Valhallas Goat and Shills of Cockermouth.

Rewarded for exemplary sales of Herdade dos Grous, the winning retailers were given the opportunity to visit the Alentejo region, visiting wineries and staying at the luxurious Herdade dos Grous Estate.

Well done to all involved!

#### **Falua Wines Reduce CO2 Emissions**

Falua Wines, part of the João Portugal Ramos Wine Group, is delighted to announce it has achieved its 2014 goal to reduce the company's Carbon Footprint. The Falua Solar Plant Project, which was set up two years ago, identified that solar energy would be the ideal sustainable source of energy due to the exceptional conditions the Portugal climate has to offer.

The huge environmental project involved investing £150,000 and the final phase is well underway. This involves assembling a photovoltaic plant that will be made up of 500 photovoltaic panels meaning that once the solar energy project is complete, Falua will save at least 25% of the total electricity spent on the wine cellar every year.

In terms of environmental achievements, this clean energy means Falua will produce 38,900 less tons of CO2 per year than in previous years, a staggering reduction and achievement for the company. In comparative terms, the CO2 emissions reduced by the installation of the 500 photovoltaic panels equate to the removal of at least 19 vehicles from the roads.

The huge reduction of electricity spent on the wine cellar means Falua will avoid the destruction of about nine hectares of forest per year and the amount of energy that will be saved is the equivalent needed to supply 50 houses per year.

#### **Niepoort Release first Dao Wine**

Dirk Niepoort has released the first red wine from the family's recently acquired estate in the Dao. Relying solely on traditional grape varieties of the region and avoiding oak maturation, Dirk has sought to capture the essence of the classic granitic soils of the region. Further information on the wine can be found [here](#).

For all enquiries, please contact Niepoort's agent **Raymond Reynolds Ltd**

#### **Aliança Vinhos de Portugal launches its flagship Bairrada Baga**

Aliança is one of Portugal's largest and most progressive producers with 600 hectares spread across estates in five regions - from Douro in the north to Alentejo in the south. Winemaker Francisco Antunes crafts wines from native varieties, full of character and quite distinctly Portuguese, but at the same time approachable and with fresh, modern fruit.

Bairrada based Aliança have long championed the local Baga grape, and now this new flagship wine brings even more regional focus and provenance to its portfolio. For this, 2009 vintage, grapes are sourced from Quinta da Rigodeira (which became part of Aliança's estate in 2000). The wine spends 14 months in new French oak barrels, and the resulting wine has rich smoky black fruit aromas leading on to a complex palate with ripe bramble fruit and plum flavours - backed by well-structured tannins and a touch of dark chocolate. A great food match for game or many Chinese dishes including pork belly and duck.

The wine is available to both on-trade and independent retailers, with an approximate RRP of £15

#### **ABS launches Herdade de Mouchão**

ABS Wine Agencies is about to receive its first shipment of wines from Herdade de Mouchão.

There is no doubting the special nature of the wines produced here. From a winemaking perspective, the principal grape of the flagship wine Mouchão (meaning delta - the vineyard lies between two small rivers) is Alicante Bouschet.

The family at Mouchão in the late 1950's, consulted with leading viticulturists to find a suitable grape variety to adapt to the upper Alentejo climate - a variety which would cope with hot summer (35-45C) and the cold winters, and the Alicante Bouschet proved ideal. The climate and terroir of the Alentejo sees it develop a rich character, style and an unaccustomed nobility which is why it makes up over 70% of this unique wine. Trincadeira completes the blend adding depth and spice.

The wine has been aged in barrels of oak and mahogany, an unusual combination, for three years, before further ageing in bottle for two, the result is a powerful wine of wonderful structure, spice, warmth and rich fruit with a great potential to evolve over several years.

For more information please email **Charlotte Bieri**

#### **Esporão named Top 100 Wineries of the Year**

Congratulations Esporão, named one of the Top 100 Wineries of the Year by Wine & Spirits magazine - one of the most important and influential wine publications in the world!

**If you are a producer or importer of Portuguese wines and you would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please contact [cathy@cubecom.co.uk](mailto:cathy@cubecom.co.uk) with your content ideas.**