



## Jamie Goode

*Our expert picks the unsung heroes of Portugal – fresh and fabulous whites*

Portugal is a wonderful country for wine. Running from the cooler, greener north to the arid, hot south, it has a wide variety of wine regions, each with unique characteristics. Add into the mix the distinctive set of Portuguese grape varieties and there's a lot of fun to be had exploring the diversity of Portuguese wines. Although it's best known for its reds, this week I'm highlighting its ever-popular whites. From a fresh, fruity white from Alentejo to a high-end Dão, this selection is bound to hit the spot.

### **Sainsbury's Winemakers' Selection Vinho Verde NV**

£5, Sainsbury's, 9% alcohol  
Lower in alcohol and with a gentle effervescence of spritz, this is a very easy-drinking, typical vinho verde from the north of Portugal. It has perfumed, floral, grapey flavours with a bit of sweetness.

### **Pomares 2014, Douro** £8.25, *thewinesociety.com* (01438 741177), 13.5% alcohol

The Douro valley, home of port, is best known for its reds, but it's also now making tasty whites.

This one is fresh and aromatic, with moreish citrus and pear fruit as well as a touch of fennel. It has rich texture, delicious depth and tastes delightful.

### **Monte Velho 2014, Alentejo**

£6.50, *thewinesociety.com* (as before), 13.5% alcohol  
Blending together local varieties antão vaz, roupeiro and perrum, this is a fresh, textured white from

the southern region of Alentejo, bursting with pear, white peach and melon fruit. It's clean and fruity, but it has some richness, too.

### **Wm Morrison Douro White 2013**

£7.99, Morrisons, 12% alcohol  
An excellent example of a new-wave Douro valley white, this is highly aromatic, fruity and lively with attractive citrus and grape notes. It's fresh, pure and crisp.

### **Casal de Ventozela 2014 Vinho Verde**

£9.99 or £6.66 each if you buy two, Majestic, 12% alcohol  
Made mainly from the loureiro grape variety, this is aromatic, pure, lively and fragrant with notes of grapes and spice. It also has a nice purity and a faint spritz.

### **Tons de Duorum White 2014,**

**Douro** £8.50, *tanners-wines.co.uk* (01743 234455), 13.5% alcohol

Here's a bright, fresh and tasty wine with a hint of tropical fruit adding richness to the bright grape and citrus flavours. It's excellent value for the quality.

### **MOB Branco 2012, Dão**

£19.95, *bbr.com* (0800 280 2440), 12.5% alcohol

This high-end white from the Dão region is the result of a collaboration between three talented wine makers: Jorge Moreira, Francisco Olazabal and Jorge Borges. It's fresh, intense and taut with keen acidity: a serious wine.



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