

13 Well-Priced Portuguese Reds

New reviews of red blends and varietals from the Douro River Valley



Photo by: Manuel Luis Gomes

A family estate in the Douro Valley, Quinto do Crasto dates to the 17th century.

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Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.

Portugal's Douro River Valley has undergone a revolution of quality over the past few decades, and in the process the home of Port has become a source for exciting table wines as well. The vast majority are red blends based on native Portuguese grapes that thrive in the terraced vineyards that flank the steep canyon formed by the Douro in north-central Portugal.

But there are varietal bottlings as well, most notably those made from Touriga Nacional, which also forms the backbone of many of the best red blends. The list below contains some notable values from top producers, making it a fine introduction to what this fascinating and fast-rising region has to offer.

QUINTA DO CRASTO Douro Superior 2013 Score: 90 / \$30

A rich, savory and spicy red, with inky notes to the roasted plum and dried raspberry flavors. Paprika and hot stone accents show on the finish, presenting medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2020. 15,000 cases made.—K.M.

QUINTA DO PASSADOURO Douro 2013 Score: 90 / \$25

Velvety in texture and well-spiced, with ripe dark fruit flavors that are matched to engaging forest floor and cedary notes. Cocoa powder and candied plum details show on the refined finish. Drink now through 2020. 175 cases imported.—K.M.

QUINTA DO PASSADOURO Touriga Nacional Douro 2013 Score: 90 / \$40

A juicy and vibrant red, with notes of white pepper to the red currant, plum and raspberry flavors. Accents of dried mint show on the spicy finish, oozing with dark chocolate details. Drink now through 2018. 50 cases imported.—K.M.

POÇAS JUNIOR Douro Vale de Cavalos 2013 Score: 90 / \$32

A lithe, powerful red, with good cut to the concentrated raspberry and red currant flavors, featuring notes of white pepper. Forest floor accents emerge on the tannic finish, showing baker's chocolate nuances. Drink now. 1,800 cases imported.—K.M.

WINE & SOUL Douro Pintas Character 2013 Score: 90 / \$40

A juicy and fresh style, with exuberant flavors of red plum and raspberry that feature hints of tangerine. Slate and white pepper notes emerge on the lively finish. Drink now through 2019. 200 cases imported.—K.M.

CHURCHILL Douro 2012 Score: 89 / \$18

Offers and appealingly firm texture, with engaging minerality to the flavors of dried berry and red plum. Shows notes of white pepper midpalate, finishing with hints of smoke and black olive. Drink now through 2018. 4,055 cases imported.—K.M.

LE MOS & VAN ZELLER Douro Van Zellers Red 2013 Score: 88 / \$19

This snappy red features lots of blueberry notes, with flavors of cherry, damson plum and dark currant. Accents of dried mint fill the richly spiced and ripe finish. Drink now through 2018. 550 cases imported.—K.M.

QUINTA DO PASSADOURO Douro Passa 2013 Score: 88 / \$15

A zesty red, with flavors of dried raspberry, plum and red currant that linger with peppery notes. The minerally, fresh finish has lightly smoky accents. Drink now through 2018. 900 cases imported.—K.M.

QUINTA DO PORTAL Douro Mural 2013 Score: 88 / \$11

This is lush, with engaging minerality to the raspberry, red plum and red currant flavors. Shows plenty of forest floor notes as well, delivering a finish of white pepper and dried herbal details. Drink now through 2019. 4,750 cases made.—K.M.

WINE & SOUL Douro Manoella 2013 Score: 88 / \$22

There's a peppery snap to this fruity, medium-bodied red. Dark currant flavors dominate, showing notes of dried herb that carry through to the finish. Drink now through 2018. 400 cases imported.—K.M.

POÇAS JUNIOR Douro Coroa d'Ouro 2013 Score: 87 / \$19

Juicy and fresh, with red plum and raspberry flavors flanked by notes of savory herb. The crisp finish is direct, featuring porcino accents. Drink now. 850 cases imported.—K.M.

QUINTA DO PORTAL Douro Muros de Vinha 2013 Score: 87 / \$10

A brambly red, with lively acidity to the flavors of dried raspberry and plum. Minerally notes show midpalate, presenting slate and spice details on the finish. Drink now. 6,665 cases made.—*K.M.*

RAMOS-PINTO Douro White Duas Quintas 2014 Score: 87 / \$12

A juicy, medium-bodied white, offering apple tart and baked pear flavors matched to notes of lemon meringue. Presents a richly spiced finish. Drink now. 115 cases imported.—*K.M.*