

Murças Reserva wins the Mundus Vini Grand Gold



Murças Reserva 2011 was awarded the Grand Gold medal, the highest accolade from the Mundus Vini – Spring Tasting 2016, alongside 38 other prize winners. The German competition, which took place in February in Neustadt, assessed over 5 thousand wines from all over the world.

In addition to Murças Reserva 2011, Esporão also won three Gold medals for Assobio White 2015 (also from Quinta dos Murças, in the Douro region) and for the Alentejo wines - Esporão Reserva Red 2013 and Monte Velho White 2015. Assobio Red 2014 also won a silver medal.

The 18th edition of this prestigious competition awarded a total of 2,063 medals: 39 wines won the highest award, the Grand Gold medal, 960 wines received the Gold medal and 1,064 wines were given the silver medal.

About Quinta dos Murças: Quinta dos Murças was acquired in 2008 by Esporão which, since then, has improved the vineyards and introduced sustainable agriculture, producing a range of wines, such as Assobio DOC Douro, Quinta dos Murças DOC Douro Reserva, Quinta dos Murças Porto Tawny 10 anos, Quinta dos Murças Porto Vintage 2011 and Quinta dos Murças extra-virgin olive oil.

Quinta dos Murças is located in Cima Corgo, on the right bank of the Douro, close to the village of Covelinhas, between Régua and Pinhão, in the Alto Douro region, which has been classified as World Heritage by UNESCO. It is distinguished by the remarkably vertical topography

of its slopes covered with vines that boast dozens of endemic grape varieties of the region. It was here, in 1955, that the first vertically-trained vines were planted, long before it became common practice in the Douro region. The 285,000 vines, which are aged between 15 and 65 years old and planted in plots by grape, are predominantly local varieties: Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca, Tinta Amarela, Tinto Cão, Touriga Franca, Tinta Francisca, as well as international varieties, such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc. This region boasts a unique combination of climate, geography, geology and old vines, which provides ideal conditions for producing unique wines

The estate boasts total area of 155 hectares, with the vineyards covering 48 hectares and all plots classified as A grade, the highest quality category in the Douro region, occupying areas at 300 metres altitude and zones closer to the broad river front. The total area of vineyards at Quinta dos Murças includes 7 hectares employing organic production methods, which demands the best environmental practices with high levels of biodiversity and the preservation of natural resources. Organic production methods and sustainability are characteristics that define all of Esporão's wine production and are long-term commitments.

In addition to the winery typical of the Douro region, with tanks for grape treading and fermentation, as well as mechanical presses, the estate has an early 19th-century manor house and 1,200 m² of ruins in the Vale Figueira, which date back to 1826. The Quinta dos Murças cellars house 19 concrete tanks and six stainless steel vats for maturing the *colheita* wines, as well as around three hundred 225 and 500-litre French, American and Portuguese oak barrels for maturing the Reserva wines and part of the Assobio wine blends. There are also eight 10,000-litre vats for ageing our ports, the 145 kegs of old port and 20 certified 550-litre kegs of new port

The innovative temperature and humidity control system of the Quinta dos Murças cellars uses only water from the farm mines, combined with an underground system throughout the cellar, which facilitates ecological and functional temperature control. Currently, Quinta dos Murças produces the wines Assobio DOC Douro, Quinta dos Murças DOC Douro Reserva, Quinta dos Murças Porto Tawny 10 anos, Quinta dos Murças Porto Vintage 2011 and an extra-virgin olive oil.

Find out more about Quinta dos Murças at:

<http://esporao.com/quinta-dos-murcas/>

About Esporão: Founded in 1973 by José Roquette and Joaquim Bandeira, Esporão's is one of the most important wine companies in Portugal. It is a key factor in making the Alentejo an important name in both national and international markets, Esporão is also an ambassador of Portuguese culture, operating in a sustainable way, while building close ties with customers and consumers the world over. Esporão is based in the Alentejo region, where it produces iconic wines, such as Esporão Reserva and Monte Velho, as well as extra-virgin olive oils. Herdade do Esporão also boasts an excellent wine tourism project on the same site as the wineries. The company's project now also extends to Quinta dos Murças, an estate in the Douro region that produces wines with terroir and the company's same guarantee of quality. Esporão sells its products in a range of shops and restaurants in over 50 countries in the world. The company's holistic approach in adapting a wide range of innovative sustainable practices led to the attribution of the coveted and prestigious "Sustainability of the Year Award" at the "The Drinks Business Green Awards 2013". In 2014, Esporão won an award at the "European Business Awards for the Environment" in the "Products and Services" category.

Find out more about Esporão at:

<http://www.esporao.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/esporaoworld>

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