

João Portugal Ramos

Marquês de Borba



WINE:	Marquês de Borba
TYPE:	Red Wine
DENOMINATION:	Alentejo DOC
VINTAGE:	2007
GRAPE VARIETY:	Trincadeira, Aragones
COUNTRY:	Portugal

The Estate: João Portugal Ramos may well be Portugal's most renowned enologist on the international stage. Since 1980, Portugal Ramos has worked as a consultant to over a dozen wineries, including the prestigious Rothschild-owned Quinta do Carmo, but he is now concentrating exclusively on making his own wines. Located near the gleaming white marble buildings of Estremoz, a hill town in the Alentejo district of Borba, his state-of-the-art winery is set amidst its own 140 acres of rolling vineyards, which were originally planted in 1990. Constructed from 1997 to 2001, the winery is a marvel of tradition as well as innovation, with a sophisticated laboratory and modern fermentation equipment, but also stone lagars for crushing grapes underfoot. The cellars hold 750 barriques, including French, Portuguese, American and Slovenian cooperage, in naturally cool temperatures. The estate vines, primarily Trincadeira and Aragones, are planted on light clay schist soils.



Vinification: The grapes for this wine are handpicked, de-stemmed and crushed, after which the juice undergoes a long maceration on the skins at cool temperatures in order to extract color and flavor, but minimal tannins. It is aged for 5 months in barrels.

Press: Wine Spectator (2007 vintage) **87 Points:** Firm, with chewy fruity flavors of dark plum, cherry and hints of date. Spice and dark chocolate, with hints of mocha, linger on the robust finish. 10/31/08

Wine Enthusiast, (2007 Vintage) **88 Points:** A deeply colored wine, reveling in the richness of 2007, a powerhouse of berry fruits, black plums and a layer of soft wood tannins. It certainly has plenty of ripe fruit, but the smoothness of the wine is the key here, a chocolate smoothness that wraps around powerful fruit. 7/08

eRobertParker.com (2007 vintage) **87 Points:** It is bright with good acidity, big red fruit flavors, and a luscious finish...a nicely wrought wine at a good price point. 12/08

Wine Enthusiast, (2006 Vintage) **87 Points.** 12/15/2007

Food & Wine 2009 Wine Guide, (2006 Vintage) ★★

Tasting Notes: Perfumed with flowery strawberry blossom aromas, this medium-colored red wine has a soft, mild, fruity round texture, with a bit of an herbal edge to the flavors. Medium in body and gentle on the palate, the fruit is pure and bright, the tannins low, and the finish satisfying.