

Casa de Santar

Casa de Santar Tinto



WINE:	Casa de Santar Tinto
TYPE:	Red Wine
DENOMINATION:	Dão DOC
VINTAGE:	2005
GRAPE VARIETY:	Touriga Nacional Alfrocheiro Tinta Roriz
COUNTRY:	Portugal

The Estate: Originally established in 1640, Casa de Santar is the only Dão Quinta to have continually produced and bottled its own wines since the 1950's. The house on the estate has been in the hands of the same family for 13 consecutive generations, the current generation being lead by winemaker Pedro de Vasconcellos e Souza. It is the Dão region's single largest estate. The winery and vineyards were recently purchased by Dão Sul, one of the larger producers of wine in the region. The Cavagio River crosses the property helping to moderate its climate. All of the estate's vines are trained on wire trellises.



Vinification: The Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro, and Tinta Roriz grapes in this wine are grown on the Estate. They were harvested by hand from vineyards whose yearly production does not exceed 6500kg per hectare, and brought to the winery where they are carefully de-stemmed and crushed. Prior to fermentation, skin contact maceration was allowed for 24 hours at a low temperature. The fermentation process lasted 10 days at a temperature of 28° C. Malolactic fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks prior to aging in American oak casks for 4 to 6 months. It was bottled and allowed to rest for another 6 months prior to release.

Press: Wine Spectator, (2005 vintage) **89 Points** "Top Values 2008": Muscular, with rich raspberry, dark plum and mocha flavors. Well-focused, with medium-grained tannins and a long, spicy finish. 12/15/08

eRobertParker.com (2005 vin) **88 Points:** It is a very nice value, elegant, flavorful and graceful. 12/08

Decanter, (2005 Vintage) **2008 World Wine Awards, Bronze:** Very elegant wine with nice fruity aroma. Well blended with nice oak. Soft. Good, silky structure but quite consistent on the palate. 10/08.

Wine & Spirits, (2004 Vintage) **91 Points, "Best Buys of 2008":** Purple fruit meets substantial oak and bests it, leaving an intriguing spice and soil character in its wake. A powerful Dão and a lovely one: If you let this mellow for several years, it will match game dishes, like goose rice. 4/08

Tasting Notes: Aromas of ripe cherry, cassis and vanilla bean with a touch of red licorice and black pepper lead to flavors of the same in a light to medium-bodied framework. Tart acidity and a very dry finish make this a great food wine with poultry, meats and cheeses. This wine drinks well now and will continue to develop and soften for a few years.