Quinta do Crasto

A pure Douro expression of Tinta Roriz, this 2018 from Quinta do Crasto marries deep wild-berry fruit with cocoa-toned elegance, finishing fresh and persistent, shaped by 18 months in French oak.

QUINTA DO CRASTO

96

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Tinta Roriz

Tinta Roriz 2018

Douro, Portugal

Region and Vineyards

Quinta do Crasto sits in **Douro**, a dramatic valley where schistous slopes, intense summer light, and wide day-to-night temperature swings help build colour, tannin, and aromatic definition. The 2018 growing season began unusually wet after a very dry winter, bringing mildew pressure around flowering and fruit set, then turned hot and dry through August, allowing excellent canopy function and steady ripening.

Fruit for this wine comes from the estate's best Tinta Roriz plots, with **35-year-old vines** trained on traditional **patamares terraces**. These terraced vineyards span multiple exposures (east, south, west, and north) around **300 m** altitude, helping preserve freshness while achieving full phenolic maturity, a key reason the finished wine shows both structure and lift.

Winemaking

Made from **100% Tinta Roriz**, the grapes are brought in small 22 kg boxes and rigorously selected. After complete destemming and a gentle crush, fermentation takes place in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks, prioritising clean fruit expression and controlled extraction. Once alcoholic fermentation is complete, the wine is gently pressed, preserving supple texture while keeping tannins precise.

Ageing follows for **18 months in French oak barrels**, adding seasoning rather than dominance: cocoa, subtle spice, and a more composed frame for the Douro's natural density. Bottled in January 2021, it sits at 14.5% abv with a firm structural core (total acidity 5.3 g/L; pH 3.74), aligning perfectly with the wine's stated aim of concentration plus freshness.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby, vivid and saturated to the rim.
- **Aroma:** Excellent intensity with cocoa, gum cistus (rockrose), and fresh wild berries, edged by discreet oak spice.
- **Palate:** Enchanting entry that expands into impressive volume and **tense, high -quality tannins**; solid structure, excellent freshness, and a persistent, characterful finish.

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Did you know?

In Portugal, **Tinta Roriz** is widely used as a local name for Tempranillo (also known as Aragonez in some regions), and in Douro it can deliver both generous fruit and serious, ageworthy tannin when grown on terraces and handled with careful extraction.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Braised Iberian pork cheeks:** The wine's firm tannins and cocoa-spice notes love slow-cooked richness, while the fresh finish keeps the pairing lively.
- **Duck breast with cherry reduction:** Echoes the wild-berry profile and lets the wine's structure frame the duck's silky fat.
- **Grilled lamb with rosemary and black olives:** Herbal, savoury accents amplify the Douro character, and the oak seasoning complements char and smoke.
- **Mushroom risotto with aged hard cheese:** Umami meets structure; the wine's tension and persistence cut through creamy texture beautifully.

96

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2018)

The 2018 Tinta Roriz was aged in new French oak for 16 to 18 months, depending on the plot (with three vineyards separately fermented). It comes in at 14.7% alcohol. There's a long finish filled with flavorful fruit. It has both personality and structure. This manages to show mid-palate finesse as well. It's another big winner from Crasto this report. Crasto tends to make refined and accessible wines these days, but this is always the one with the most tannic pop, at least among the monovarietals. (Sometimes, when the specialty wines like Vinha da Ponte are produced, there are competitors in that regard.) This is a little tight, and it tightens even more with an hour of air. Even here, though, the wine is put together beautifully and without too much astringency. There is plenty of tannic pop, but the tannins are not too hard. So, you could drink this now, although that would be a big mistake. Coming back around 2023-2025 would be a much better idea, and it may not be at peak even then. Not many in Portugal are having this type of success with this famed Spanish grape (a.k.a. Tempranillo). There were 11,431 bottles produced, plus some large format bottles.

93 WINEENTHUSIAST

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 93 Points (2018)

From a selection of the best parcels of Roriz on the Crasto estate, this wine was aged for 18 months in wood. It shows great richness, dense structure and youthful black fruits. Concentration and powerful tannins promise long-term aging.

93 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2018)

This is earthy and chocolaty with ripe, mellow dark fruit and spicy undertones. Full and velvety with juicy acidity coming through. Textural and firm with a lingering finish. A little austere, but there's plenty of energy here.