Quinta do Crasto

A collector-worthy Douro red, Quinta do Crasto Vinha Maria Teresa 2019 offers exceptional complexity and freshness, moving from a compact opening to a seductive mid-palate, then stretching out with poise.

QUINTA DO CRASTO

98

Vinha Maria Teresa 2019

Douro, Portugal

Region and Vineyards

Set in the Douro, this wine is rooted in a dramatic landscape of steep terraces and heat-retaining schist. In 2019, a dry winter and spring reduced soil water reserves, yet mild temperatures from May to late August, around **5 °C** below the previous five-year average at the estate, encouraged slow, even ripening and impressive flavour maturity.

The fruit comes exclusively from **Vinha Maria Teresa**, an east-facing parcel on schist, laid out as traditional **socalcos** terraces supported by stone walls, between **120 and 190 m** altitude. Planted more than a century ago, it is a remarkable "mixed field blend" vineyard with over **50 grape varieties** already identified, delivering the wine's hallmark: layered aromatics, natural concentration, and a freshness that keeps the power beautifully in check.

Winemaking

Vinha Maria Teresa 2019 is produced from **old vines in mixed plantings**, harvested from the named plot and transported in 22 kg boxes. Sorting is rigorous on arrival, then the grapes are fully destemmed and traditionally trodden in a stone **lagar**, an approach that can build texture and depth while preserving aromatic definition when extraction is carefully managed.

After treading, the must is transferred to temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks to complete alcoholic fermentation, followed by gentle pressing. Ageing lasts about **20 months** in **new oak barrels**, predominantly French (**90%**) with a small American component (**10%**), and the final wine is assembled from a selection of the finest barrels. Bottled in April 2022, it is 14.5% abv, with total acidity of 5.6 g/L and pH 3.58, aligning with the style: compact, polished, and built to evolve.

Alcohol :14,60 %

Composition: 100% Blend

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby, intense and saturated.
- **Aroma:** Striking complexity and freshness, with gum cistus, wild berry fruit and finely etched spice.
- **Palate:** Compact at first, then increasingly seductive; smooth-textured, well-integrated tannins with retronasal wild-berry clarity, finishing engaging, balanced, and long.

Did you know?

Vinha Maria Teresa is one of Quinta do Crasto's most historic parcels, planted more than **100 years** ago. The wine is only bottled in exceptional years and in strictly limited quantities, which is why it has become one of the estate's most emblematic Douro reds.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast rib of beef:** The wine's compact power and polished tannins latch onto rich protein, while the fresh aromatic lift keeps every bite feeling precise.
- **Charcoal-grilled lamb with rosemary:** Schist-grown intensity meets smoky char; herbal notes and spice resonate with the wine's Douro signature.
- **Wild mushroom ragù with pappardelle:** Earth and umami amplify complexity, and the wine's refined structure carries the dish without overwhelming it.
- **Aged sheep's cheese:** Salty, nutty depth highlights the wine's long finish and makes the silky tannin texture feel even more luxurious.

98

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2019)

The 2019 Vinha Maria Teresa is a field blend of over 50 grapes from centenarian vines aged for 20 months in new oak (90% French, 10% American). It is a selection of the best barrels and comes in at 14.7% alcohol. This 2019 is pretty much the standard profile of this wine, especially as in comparison to its Vinha da Ponte sibling. They both have considerable power, but this adds intense flavor and finesse too, while the Vinha da Ponte tends to be stern, brooding and subdued. That's typically why I prefer this, and I do again. Taste this fast to get some of that great fruit before it closes down and the tannins take over. It seems pretty delicious, but aeration brings out the power. It may have most of Ponte's power, but there's that bolder flavor to enliven this, the red fruits around the edges. This, too, will require time in the cellar, probably more than indicated. It seems simply brilliant, though, today. To me, the greater finesse and the expression of fruit makes it a step up on the Ponte this year, but reasonable minds might differ. Still, when I took a fresh pour two hours later, the wave of well-integrated fruit just seemed spectacular. Until it closed again. It has some things to prove to justify my enthusiasm, but it surely will be on the short list of the greatest Maria Teresas ever. For all of the occasional bursts of flavor, however, this is closed and sometimes hard to read right now. So, as always, I'd rather be a little conservative and let this prove its case in the cellar. Still, when all is said and done, I won't be surprised if it is entitled to an upgrade and becomes the best Maria Teresa yet. There were 9,000 bottles produced, plus some large-format bottles.

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Vinha Maria Teresa 2019

Wine Spectator (WS) : 95 Points (2019)

A vivid red, finely integrated and harmonious, this reveals a core of ripe black cherry, mulberry and black plum fruit, with detailed accents of mountain herbs, toasted paprika, ground anise, tar and graphite. The refined tannins provide a sculpted frame for the creamy profile, and floral and spice notes echo on the finish.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2019)

A vivid red, finely integrated and harmonious, with ripe black cherry, mulberry and black plum, plus mountain herbs, anise, tar and graphite.