

Quinta de la Rosa

A beautifully poised Vintage Port from a fast, hot Douro harvest, Quinta de la Rosa 2020 combines deep concentration with the estate's hallmark freshness, offering immediate allure and the promise of graceful evolution in bottle.

QUINTA
DE LA ROSA

95
James Suckling



Vintage Port 2020

Douro, Portugal

Region and Vineyards

Quinta de la Rosa stands in the heart of the **Douro Valley**, near Pinhão, where vineyards rise steeply from the river in a landscape of schist terraces, stark elevation shifts and dramatic exposures. The estate highlights parcels such as Vale do Inferno near the river and Lamelas higher up, reaching around **500 metres** in altitude. This range of site conditions helps preserve freshness while still delivering the concentration expected from great Vintage Port. The estate also notes that its fruit is classified **Category A**, the top vineyard ranking in the Douro.

For Port, this setting is especially important. The Douro's steep, terraced vineyards and hot inland climate can produce formidable ripeness, yet altitude, aspect and schist soils help shape structure and aromatic definition. In 2020, a wet, cold winter gave the vines a strong start, followed by a cool June and then a very hot summer. Yields were lower than usual, but fruit concentration was excellent, and the harvest finished exceptionally early, on **15 September 2020**.

Winemaking

This wine is made from traditional Port grapes, led by **Touriga Nacional** and **Touriga Franca**, with some **Sousão** from old dry-stone terraces. The blend reflects classic Douro priorities: perfume and structure from Touriga Nacional, supple dark fruit from Touriga Franca, and colour, acidity and backbone from Sousão.

The selected lots from the 2020 harvest were **foot trodden in granite lagares** for three to four days, with careful temperature control to optimise extraction before fortification with grape spirit to stop fermentation. The young Port was then matured in large oak **tonels** for **24 months** before bottling in September 2022, according to the technical sheet, while the current official page describes large-tonel ageing and a style intended to combine youthful appeal with long ageing potential. The finished wine is bottled at **20% alcohol** and is intended for very long cellaring.

Alcohol :20,00 %

Composition: 100% Porto divers

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, saturated violet-purple, almost opaque at the core, signalling the concentration and extract of a serious young Vintage Port.
- **Aroma:** Expressive and layered, with dark berries, black-fruit compote and wild floral tones, joined by hints of dried flowers, bark, chocolate and toffee.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied, rich and creamy, yet held in shape by firm, fine-grained tannins and a welcome line of freshness. The mouthfeel is velvety and dense rather than heavy, with poised sweetness, dark fruit depth and a long, seamless finish.

Did you know?

A defining feature of Quinta de la Rosa's Port style is its deliberate avoidance of excessive sweetness. The estate explicitly describes its Ports as a drier **house style**, aiming for freshness, minerality and careful integration of the fortifying spirit rather than overt richness alone. That philosophy helps explain why this 2020, despite its power, feels so composed and energetic.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Stilton or other blue cheese:** The saltiness and creamy texture of blue cheese play beautifully against the Port's sweet dark fruit and tannic structure.
- **Dark chocolate fondant:** The wine's notes of chocolate, toffee and black fruit echo the dessert while its freshness keeps the pairing from feeling cloying.
- **Venison with blackberry jus:** The wine has enough concentration and grip to stand up to game, while the berry element in the sauce mirrors its fruit profile.
- **Walnut tart:** Nuts and pastry draw out the wine's savoury, mellowing side and flatter its velvety texture, especially after some years in bottle.

95 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2020)

This shows notes of ripe bark and berries, with dried flowers, chocolate and toffee.

94 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 94 Points (2020)

A finely balanced Vintage Port, this is richly textured, poised between sweet black-fruit compote flavors and plenty of firm tannins. This impressive wine is dense, sure to age well. Drink from 2029.