



Quinta do Crasto

For some wine enthusiasts and critics, Quinta do Crasto Vinha da Ponte is one of this estate's best wines, one of the best, in fact, in the entire Douro region.



Vinha da Ponte 2018

Douro, Portugal

Deep purple in color. Impressive on the nose, showing intensity and concentration, with red berry fruit aromas and hints of fresh spice. The palate is intense and elegant, combining volume, silky-textured tannins and notes of red berry fruit. The finish is long, lingering, balanced and fresh. This is a terroir wine that perfectly reflects its provenance.

Winemaking:

The grapes, coming from the vineyard plot Vinha da Ponte, are taken to the winery in 22 kg plastic boxes. On arrival in the winery they are rigorously inspected on a sorting table. The grapes are then completely destemmed and slightly crushed. After this, they are transferred to temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. Once the alcoholic fermentation is completed, the grape are gently pressed using hydraulic presses. Aging: About 20 months in new French oak barrels. The final wine is made from a selection of the finest barrels.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Vinhas Velhas



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Vinha da Ponte 2018



Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2018)

The 2018 Vinha da Ponte, a field blend from very old vines (100+ years), was aged in new French oak for 20 months. It comes in at 14.8% alcohol. As always, Ponte is a very different animal than Maria Teresa. It's less personable and less exuberant, but it is solid in the mid-palate, brooding a little and promising that better days will come. This is a great Ponte and one of Crasto's best versions of it. Concentrated and powerful, but with the tannins held in check and still showing some expressiveness, this grabs the palate and doesn't let go. In fact, this might be a year when this is as open as the Maria Teresa (although it's never as personable). Serious and long on the finish, this is just a baby that will need a decade in the bottle to show its best, or even show well. It should age well for another decade or two after that. As with the Maria Teresa, it was better the next day. It looks to be brilliant. I still preferred the Maria Teresa—I usually do—but this is a close call this year. Reasonable minds might differ. This Ponte: fuller bodied in mouthfeel, less flavor. Maria Teresa: more finesse, more personality. Both have plenty of power. There were 3,550 bottles produced, plus 150 magnums and 30 three-liter bottles.



Wine Spectator (WS) : 91 Points (2014)

A spicy red, with hot stone aromas flanking the ripe blackberry, plum and mocha flavors. Zesty, with ample white pepper aromas on the finish. Offers moderate, integrated tannins. Drink now through 2023. 375 cases made.



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