



QUINTA DO VALE MEÃO

Wine & Spirits
MAGAZINE

ARTICLE 'YEAR'S BEST PORT'

December 2015

Our blind panels tasted **64** new-release Ports over the past 12 months. **Joshua Greene**, our critic for Portugal, rated **25** as exceptional (90+) and **5** as Best Buys. *Find a complete list of wines tasted and all reviews at wineandspiritsmagazine.com.*

Vale Meão is an unusual site in the Douro, spreading out on low terraces along the river where a fault line blocks its path and the waters head north, before looping back west toward the sea. Rather than a steep canyon, this vineyard in the Douro Superior is a wide fan, the soils ranging from an alluvial wash to sectors of schist and others of granite. It is consistently a great size for table wine, (...)

But this 2012, from a relatively cool and extremely dry season, showed beautifully. It has the fresh scent of orange blossoms, the dark savor of bitter chocolate in its tannins. Fruit fills it out in between, a pure red berry fruit character accented by persimmon, along with herbal notes of bay and wildflowers. It's not pushed to be a serious, 100-year Port. Instead, it comes across as a great Douro red, friendly and inviting in its complexity. Perhaps it will be most beautiful at ten years of age.

And really, is there a problem with that?

W. J. Deutsch & Sons, White Plains, NY



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