

Alvarinho Soalheiro Primeiras Vinhas 2011



The grapes are organically produced and harvest by hand from the old vines with more than 30 years at Quinta de Soalheiro, the First Vines “Primeiras Vinhas”. The microclimate that influences the production of Alvarinho grapes is very particular. Melgaço region, the northern point of Portugal, is protected by a range of mountains that create the perfect conditions of rainfall, temperature and number of hours of sunshine needed to the better ripeness of the Alvarinho grapes. The brand name – Soalheiro – arises from the excellent sun exposure of the vineyards bearing the same name – a sunny place.

The 2011 harvest has high temperatures in the beginning of the growing season that allowed early flowering, assuming an early harvest, however moderate temperatures during maturation (late July and August) favoured the aromatic concentration and moderate alcohol levels associated with a well-balanced acidity in the grapes. The climatic conditions of 2011 allowed a very elegant aroma, mineral and tropical, with a good balance of taste, fresh and intense, anticipating a good ability to evolution in the bottle.

Producer
Soalheiro

Region
Melgaço, Monção

Vinification

The grapes are harvested manually in boxes of small capacity and carried to the cellar in a short space of time. After the pressing and the before fermentation with controlled temperature, the must was decanted during 48 hours. Fermentation essentially takes place in stainless steel vats at a very low temperature (only 15% of the total volume ferments in used oak barrels), and fine sediments is kept until the beginning of May.

Grape Varieties
Alvarinho

Alcohol (%)
13

pH
3.29

Total Acidity (g/dm³)
5.7

Volatile Acidity (g/dm³)
0.4

{ the values are orientative }

Tasting Notes

Citrus colour, elegant and full flavour that grows in the glass, becoming increasingly persistent. The flavour is full bodied, fresh and complex with great final complexity.

Food Suggestions

Ideal as an aperitif or to accompany seafood dishes, fish or poultry dishes.