

Soalheiro Espumante Bruto Alvarinho 2012



The Alvarinho grapes used in the Soalheiro came from several small vineyards planted in granite soil between 100 and 200 meters and located in a very particular microclimate. 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.

2012 – a perfect harvest. The summer months and specifically August had moderate temperatures and cool nights that favoured a slow maturation and the concentration of the varietal aromas on the grapes. The beginning of September warm and dry contributed to a perfect balance in the Alvarinho. In 2012, flowering occurred two weeks later than last harvest, because of the little precipitation in winter. The rain arrived later and some during flowering which led to smaller grapes, but very balanced. This year we began the harvest on the second week of September to maintain usual freshness in the Soalheiro.

Producer
Soalheiro

Region
Melgaço, Monção

Vinification

The improvement of a sparkling from Alvarinho requires careful selection of grapes. The resulting must from this selection ferments with controlled temperature, yielding the base wine for sparkling. This wine suffers in the bottle a second fermentation. The stage in the cellar with low and constant temperature for several months allows this sparkling to show all the elegance of Alvarinho. Finished this phase of fermentation and aging, we proceed to the disgorging, operation that allows the elimination of existing yeast in the bottle and replace the provisional metal stopper for the typical sparkling cork.

Grape Varieties
Alvarinho

Alcohol (%)
12.5

pH
3.22

Total Acidity (g/dm³)
6

Volatile Acidity (g/dm³)
0.3

{ the values are orientative }

Tasting Notes

Apresenta cor amarela citrina, bolha fina e persistente. O aroma revela a fruta da casta Alvarinho, denotando um bom equilíbrio entre a acidez e o álcool. O sabor apresenta persistência e complexidade.

Food Suggestions

Very versatile with a wide range of cuisine. It is ideal as an aperitif or to accompany roast cooking meal.