



TOTAL PRODUCTION:  
300 cases - 3600 bottles

## Dow's QUINTA DA SENHORA DA RIBEIRA 2009 VINTAGE PORT

The Douro is one of the most diverse wine regions on earth and this is one of its underlying strengths. It is 100 km long and an average of 25 km wide, following the course of the Douro River and its many tributaries, thus forming a wide range of terroirs. Some vineyards skirt the river's edge at about 90 metres (295 feet), whilst others are high up the valley slopes, up to 500 metres (1640 feet). Accordingly, temperatures, rainfall, altitude and aspect (sun exposure), vary widely, which means that even in more testing years it is usually possible to make some very fine wines.



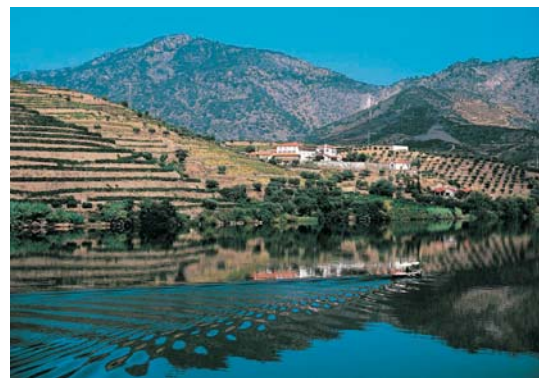
THE TERRACE AND CHAPEL AT SENHORA DA RIBEIRA

In his harvest report compiled in October 2009, Paul Symington wrote, "This has been a challenging year for the people of the Douro and the wines that they cultivate. Three dry years in succession in a region such as ours complicates the already difficult task of farming mountain vineyards." The combination of drought and heat translated into substantially lower yields throughout the region. Furthermore, rigorous fruit selection on the sorting tables also contributed to a smaller vintage. However, the adaptability/survivability of the Douro's grape varieties came into play, the Touriga Franca and Touriga Nacional performing particularly well.

At Senhora da Ribeira everything suggested right from the first grape maturation sampling in mid-August that the Touriga Franca was likely to be the star of the 2009 Vintage. Even at this very early stage, this late-ripening and heat-resistant variety was already showing tremendous colour potential, and the continuation of favourable conditions throughout September created great expectations in the lead up to the vintage. This, combined with the exceptionally low yields of the variety in 2009 (0.9Kg/vine), created great expectations and ensured the full realization of all this early potential, resulting in 60% of the final wine being made up of Touriga Franca, sourced from blocks 36, 22 and 19, situated close to the winery.

The Touriga Nacional being more heat-sensitive performed especially well in the east-facing (sheltered) block 7 vineyard plot, which is situated at a cooler 300 metres (984 feet) altitude and produced aromatic wines with excellent acidity. The very small berry

size of the Touriga Nacional in 2009 produced particularly dark wines and added a firm tannic backbone to the final wine. The Touriga Nacional made up the remaining 40% of the final lot. Following 18 months in wooden vats, only 300 cases (3,600 bottles) of the Senhora da Ribeira 2009 was selected for bottling in April 2011, with no fining or filtration.



QUINTA DA SENHORA DA RIBEIRA



THE QUINTA'S CHARMING PERGOLA

**VINIFICATION:** the Senhora da Ribeira 2009 was vinified entirely at the quinta's dedicated winery in the lagares. The Touriga Franca and Touriga Nacional showed excellent Baumé readings, 14.1 and 13.8, respectively.

**TASTING NOTE:** typical Dow's soft minty quality in evidence, with very pronounced lifted floral aromas - an indication of the substantial Touriga Franca component. In the mouth, a little less austere and shy than is usual with a Dow's Vintage, showing remarkable opulence; dark fruits and liquorice, fractionally richer and rounder than usual, perhaps denoting the hot year.

Johnny Symington  
Oporto, Portugal, April 2011