

# NEW RELEASE

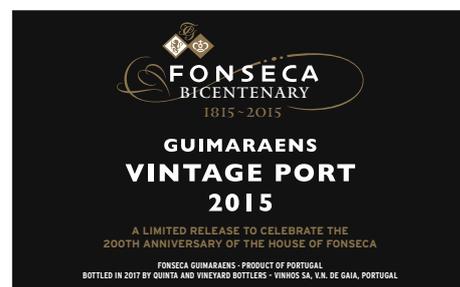
## FONSECA GUIMARAENS

### 2015 VINTAGE



#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fonseca is to release a 2015 Vintage Port under the Guimaraens label. Managing Director, Adrian Bridge, commented: 'As Fonseca's 200th anniversary year, I am delighted that 2015 has produced a Vintage Port of such excellent quality. It will be released as a Guimaraens Vintage with a special commemorative label to mark the occasion.' He added, 'The 2015 Vintage Ports are attractive and approachable on the nose but supported by big, firm tannins. The Guimaraens Vintage 2015 will make excellent early drinking but will not disappoint those who prefer to cellar it for the future.' Fonseca's wine maker, David Guimaraens, remarked: 'The dry spring and summer produced low yields but the healthiest crop we have seen for many years. A balanced ripening season gave the 2015 wines their characteristically firm but well integrated tannins.'



#### TASTING NOTE

Opaque purple-black at the centre with a very thin, purple edge. A classic Fonseca nose redolent of heady, woodland fruit, powerful but also very fine and complex. The dense blackberry and blackcurrant aromas form the backdrop for a display of fresh, minty, balsamic scents and resinous notes of gumcistus and wild herbs. Discreet hints of exotic wood, liquorice and black pepper provide an additional dimension of complexity. The thick, tightly-woven tannins provide both firmness and volume to the palate which is built around a core of dense, dark berry fruit. Plummy, raspberry flavours emerge on the long, luscious finish, giving it an attractive crispness and lift. Fonseca's 200th anniversary year has produced an exceptional Guimaraens Vintage Port, expressive and approachable but with the stamina to improve over many years in the cellar.

#### NOTES ON THE 2015 VITICULTURAL YEAR AND HARVEST

The viticultural year will be remembered as unusually dry and the Fonseca properties in the Pinhão area recorded rainfall about a third less than the ten year average. The rain held off until early spring and this was beneficial in producing a crop with no sign of disease although yields were relatively low. The dry conditions and a very hot start to the summer brought forward the véraison (colouring of the grapes) and led to an early start to the ripening season. In late July and throughout August, conditions were more even, with warm conditions and no spells of intense heat. Ripening was well balanced and at harvest time the crop was in excellent condition, with perfectly healthy, shrivel-free bunches. As was to be expected, given the early start to the ripening season, the first grapes were ready to pick, with excellent phenolic and sugar ripeness, by the end of the first week of September. Picking started at Fonseca's Quinta do Panascal in the Távora Valley on the 12th with cool night time temperatures producing balanced fermentations and long extraction times. Picking was suspended briefly during a short period of heavy rain on 15th and 16th September and, although perfect weather conditions resumed, harvesting at Fonseca's Pinhão Valley properties, Cruzeiro and Santo António, was delayed until late in the month. Excellent wines were made until right at the end of the harvest in early October.

#### GUIMARAENS VINTAGE PORT

Guimaraens Vintage Ports are made in certain years when a classic Fonseca Vintage is not declared and are generally more supple and approachable when young. An excellent choice for early drinking they nevertheless have the depth and stamina to mature in bottle. Traditionally, Guimaraens Vintage Ports were blended from the best produce of the firm's two Pinhão Valley estates, Cruzeiro and Santo António. However in recent years, the wines of Fonseca's flagship property, Quinta do Panascal, have become an increasingly important component. Panascal is located in the Távora Valley and is one of the most highly reputed Port vineyards. Cruzeiro, on the east bank of the Pinhão River, has been supplying Fonseca since the 1870s and its wines have contributed to the firm's Vintage Port blends since 1912. Close by, Santo António is another historic property, highly rated since the 1761 classification of port vineyards and the site of award winning work in the field of sustainable viticulture.



Quinta do Cruzeiro



Quinta do Santo António



Quinta do Panascal