

NEW RELEASE
FONSECA 2016 VINTAGE



Fonseca has announced that it has declared 2016 as a classic vintage. The announcement was made on 23rd April, 2018 in keeping with house tradition. Comments on the Fonseca 2016 Vintage Port are as follows:

Adrian Bridge, Managing Director:

“The Fonseca 2016 has the finely constituted fruit which is a hallmark of the house style, with an attractive minerality. It is worth noting the quality of the tannins, one of the key attributes of the 2016 vintage. This was a year of low yields and this is reflected in the amount of vintage port offered.”

David Guimaraens, Head Wine Maker:

Commenting on the viticultural year: “The harvest of 2016 will be remembered as having started very late. Fonseca’s Quinta do Cruzeiro started picking right at the end of September and Quinta do Santo António at the beginning of October. This was due to the late start to the ripening season and to the long and very even maturation of the crop. Balance is certainly one of the keynotes of the vintage”. Commenting on the wine: “The gradual and even ripening of the crop has produced beautifully balanced Fonseca 2016 Vintage Port, with pure fruit, firm but well integrated tannins and an attractive freshness.”



FONSECA
PORTO



CASES PRODUCED 4.900

TASTING NOTE

Dense purple black with a narrow purple rim. The nose opens with very fine pure black fruit, a fusion of black cherry, cassis and blackberry jam aromas, with notes of crushed mint, an ethereal fragrance of violets and undertones of ripe tropical fruit. The year has added an additional layer of purity and refinement to the subtle, complex Fonseca fruit character, as well as an attractive minerality. The palate is supported by a vibrant acidity and taut, wiry tannins that provide structure but also texture and volume. The fresh berry flavours carry into the long finish. A finely crafted and perfectly balanced Vintage Port.

**NOTES
ON THE 2016
VITICULTURAL
YEAR
AND HARVEST**



The weather pattern leading up to the 2016 harvest was relatively unusual. Rainfall in April and May was almost three times the 10-year average. This replenished ground water reserves reduced by the dry conditions the previous year but also resulted in significant fruit loss and reduction in yields in some areas as well as a late start to the maturation cycle. In contrast, July saw the onset of hot, dry conditions that lasted for the rest of the summer. Ripening was even, gradual and rounded off by a spell of rainfall towards the middle of September. Estates that delayed picking until after the rains were rewarded by perfect harvesting weather, the cool nights contributing to long, well-balanced fermentations and gentle extraction.

Wine makers’ notes record that the young wines displayed very fine aromas as well as pronounced tannins. This early promise has been fully realised, with the 2016 vintage ports showing elegance, finesse, crisp acidity and tannins of exceptional quality. Picking at Fonseca’s Panascal estate began on 21st September and at Quinta do Cruzeiro in the Pinhão Valley on the 28th. Fonseca’s third property, Quinta do Santo António, only started harvesting on 6th October.

37,5CL

75CL

1,5L

3L

6L

BOTTLE SIZES

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Established as a port company in 1815, Fonseca is noted for the stylistic consistency of its Vintage Ports which have been made by five generations of the Guimaraens family since its foundation. Its Vintage Ports are noted for their expressive, luscious fruitiness, which develops great opulence and complexity with age, as well as a voluptuous roundness on the palate supported by velvety mouth-filling tannins. Although they are capable of ageing for decades, the exuberant fruitiness of the Fonseca Vintage Ports makes them immensely enjoyable when young. Fonseca undoubtedly belongs in the first rank of vintage port houses. James Suckling, the distinguished wine critic and author of the most authoritative book to date on Vintage Port described Fonseca as the ‘Bentley’ of Vintage Port - the wine of the enthusiast and connoisseur.

EN2018



QUINTA DO PANASCAL

One of the most highly reputed port vineyards, Quinta do Panascal occupies a west and south west facing aspect on the steep right bank of the Távora river, the important tributary which runs northwards



into the Douro. In the words of an old saying, ‘From Roncão and Panascal come the finest wines of Portugal’. A supplier of grapes to Fonseca for many decades, the property was finally acquired by the company in 1978. Since its acquisition the estate has been the object of major investment intended, not only to bring new life to the vineyard, but to ensure that the estate produces wines completely consistent with the Fonseca house style. As a result the property now produces outstanding wines which today form the backbone of the Fonseca Vintage Port blend. These are recognised for their rich, voluptuous fruitiness and above all for their mouth filling density, velvety texture and aromatic complexity. Quinta do Panascal was one of the first vineyards in the Douro Valley to practise organic viticulture.

QUINTA DO CRUZEIRO

Quinta do Cruzeiro has been supplying the firm since the 1870’s, giving it the longest association with Fonseca of all the company’s properties. Cruzeiro has contributed to the Fonseca Vintage Port blend since 1912 and remains a key component today. The property is a historic one and is recorded as having been awarded feitoria status (the highest vineyard classification of the time) in 1761. It occupies a warm west facing position on the lowest slopes of the valley on the left bank of the Pinhão River. The vineyard underwent extensive renovation in the 1970’s - including the building of the first modern terraces - but still contains a large number of very old vines. The wines of Cruzeiro are noted for their fine, focused fruit and for their firm tannic grip which gives structure and vigour to the Fonseca Vintage Port blend.



QUINTA DE S^{TO} ANTÓNIO

Quinta de Santo António occupies an open hillside facing westwards down the Pinhão river about a kilometre north of Fonseca’s Quinta do Cruzeiro. The estate shares Quinta do Cruzeiro’s long association with Fonseca and achieved its feitoria status in the same year. Its wines have also contributed regularly to the Fonseca Vintage Port blend since early in the last century. However the estate is smaller in area and has recently undergone



extensive renovation. As a result, Santo António is now a model estate, incorporating the latest techniques of vineyard landscaping and trellising. The estate is managed according to organic viticultural principles with the benefit of experience gained by Fonseca at Quinta do Panascal.