



**QUINTA DO VESUVIO 2010 VINTAGE PORT
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650 CASES MADE

The weather in the Douro is unpredictable and does not always follow a normal pattern. The winter of 2009-2010 certainly ensured that our viticulture and winemaking teams faced new challenges. Following three consecutive years of drought, the winter rain from October 2009 to March 2010 was above average in every one of these 6 months. In December, February and March, more than twice the average rain fell at Vesuvio. This quantity of rain brought erosion problems in the steep mountain vineyards, but the water was desperately needed to replenish the much depleted reserves deep in the schist soils of the Quinta. In contrast not a single drop of rain fell during July and August and temperatures over these two months were 2°C above average.

These unpredictable weather conditions showed again the adaptability of the Douro grape varieties. In the variable conditions of 2009/10, some vines thrived while others faltered. The Touriga Franca, which almost always makes superb wines at Vesuvio, did not ripen as well as we would have liked. Fortunately for us, the Touriga Nacional, which accounts for 28% of the Vesuvio vineyard, performed superbly in 2010. The Tinta Barroca (16% of the vineyard) also made excellent wines as did the vines in the old mixed vineyards. These wines were therefore chosen to make the Vesuvio 2010 Vintage Port, which is 75% Touriga Nacional and 25% Tinta Barroca. Some of the Nacional came from older vineyards, planted in 1976, whilst the Barroca was drawn from vines planted in 1981.

As with the preceding Vintage, we were very selective and made just 650 cases (7,800 bottles). Experience with the 2009 Vintage (600 cases) shows that this small quantity will be quickly sold and we are advising our customers to place their orders soon, in order to avoid disappointment.

The Symington family has devoted over 20 years of work to reinstating this legendary Douro property to its former glory. The family's passion for constant improvement has been rewarded by the outstanding reviews that Quinta do Vesuvio Vintage Ports have been given over recent years. The 2009 Vesuvio and the 2007 Vesuvio Capela Vintage Ports have both attained remarkable 98 point scores from the respected magazine, Wine Spectator.

Portugal, June 2012



The Vesuvio 2010 Vintage Port, in its handmade oak wood case.