

LUIS PATO

(BAIRRADA, CURIA, BEIRAS REGION, CENTRAL PORTUGAL)

www.luispato.com



Luis Pato
WINEGROWER

Luis Pato wines are the result of the association of two traditional families from Bairrada, the Pato family and the Melo Campos family. At the Quinta do Ribeirinho (Ribeirinho Estate) the documents reveal a wine production since the 18th Century. Its activity of wine bottling began in the 1970s.

Affectionately known as the 'King of Bairrada', Luis Pato is the man who has done most to put this region on the modern winemaking map. He is one of Portugal's most controversial winemakers and is a serious player with 65 hectares in production. From 2006 his vineyards are devoted entirely to Portuguese varieties; all international varieties having uprooted.

Pato's passion is the Baga grape, and he says his chalky clay soils are perfect for it. Other varieties like Touriga Nacional are grown on sandy soils, in a meticulously planned estate. Luis now shares winemaking duties with his daughter, Filipa.

Vinha Pan 2005

CSPC# 789263

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

100% Baga

Winemaker

Luis & Filipa Pato

Vineyards

'Pan' and 'Barrosa' are two different soil-based single vineyard expressions of Baga-the former relatively feminine, the latter more Bordeaux-masculine. Both age wonderfully ... 'Pan' is from youthful 20 y.o. sand-planted vines, and has concentration to match 'Barrosa', with extra zip.

Tasting Notes

Dark purple in colour, with a royal purple fringe. Red currents, light game, pepper and spice, minerally and earthy. In the mouth the wine is very refined, but powerful. Great balance and structure, you can see the potential for this to age, but it's great drinking now. On the palate it's full of mulberry, mocha coffee, with a slight raisin character.

Serve with

To be dished up with duck and red meats.

Cellaring

A Burgundian style wine with good acidity. It will age for 15 or 20 years.

Scores/Awards

94 points - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - March 2008

17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012

90 points - Mark Squires, *Wine Advocate* #227 - October 28, 2016

86+ points - Mark Squires, *Wine Advocate* #177 - July 28, 2008

"Brooding, focused nose is dark, spicy and elegant with black cherry and black fruits. Incredibly tight and complex. The palate is open and expressive with elegant dark fruits, good acidity and a lovely fine yet grippy tannic structure. Wonderful stuff for long ageing."

- JG, Wineanorak.com

"31-year-old vineyard. Luis Pato's best vintage up to 2009. Pure Baga. This was the first year he did not do a green harvest because he started to use the less ripe fruit for the sparkling Informal – a green harvest with a purpose. Deep crimson. Complex nose of red fruit and cedary and just a hint of eucalyptus. On the palate, dry and fresh but with a rounded sweetness of red fruit even though the tannins counteract the sweetness. Juicy and so fresh. Concentrated and silky even though the tannins are still so present. (JH) 13%"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com



Reviews *The 2005 Vinha Pan is a Baga, from the Beiras regional appellation, that is part of our oldies theme this issue. This is not as old as some and has been previously seen, but it is doing well, exceeding expectations and it is good to check in. This was a wine I wanted to see again--it had potential, but it there was a lot of estimating involved in that. Fresh and perky now, with lively acidity that has been far better integrated into the whole, this shows very tasty fruit, tension on the finish and lingering flavors. It is lighter styled, not the most concentrated Vinha Pan, but it has blossomed and evolved beautifully, changing from a tart and charmless red into something enlivening, enticing and open.*

For this issue, Luis Pato provides a slew of older wines showing how well Baga ages--but we are also capping that off with the new vintages and even some barrel samples. I even got a look at the upcoming 2015s, which promises to be a very fine vintage, including a Pe Franco on chalky soil. The regular (sandy soil) and new bottling look to have tons of potential, but stay tuned. I'm not publishing reviews on those yet as they are just a bit too far away and I'd like to see them again with more bottle time. As far as other old vines go, we also have some of Pato's Vinha Barrosa from centenary vines. This is a Baga, although there may be some scattered white grapes in the field blend (around 1%, Pato said). It's a rather good value point in the lineup--high quality, a lot cheaper than Pe Franco.

- MS, Wine Advocate

"The 2005 VINHA PAN is nicely textured, but rather tart at the moment, with mouth watering acidity and a sour cherry finish that was hard to warm up to. The supporting tannins are somewhat drying at the moment, but should integrate nicely into the wine with time. The texture is appealing, and there is solid fruit underneath, but this will need some patience for it to come into some semblance of balance. Nine hours of decanting did not make it charming, but it did make it drinkable. Drink 2010-2020. Luis Pato, the lucky duck of Beiras ("Pato" means duck in Portuguese and there are often ducks displayed around Pato and on his wine labels), is widely considered a dominant force in his region, a winemaker who, when the weather cooperates in his difficult region, can tame the difficult Baga grape with which he works. His wines these days often have a refined elegance rather than rustic astringency, but they retain that very bright Baga acidity"

- MS, Wine Advocate
