

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.

Vinhas Velhas Red 2009

CSPC# 725368

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 770059

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

open

Grape Variety

100% Baga

Winemaker

Luis & Filipa Pato

Vineyards

Grown in chalky-clay soils on vines with an average age of forty years.

Harvest

In the end of August it was made a first harvest, to produce sparkling Wine from the same grapes, of about 60%, to increase the concentration and anticipate the maturation of the grapes left in the vine to harvest in the end of September to produce this Vinhas Velhas.

Vinification/ Maturation

Vinified in stainless steel vats for ten days, it was matured in used casks (650 litres of capacity) for fifteen months.

Tasting Notes

Intense, very smoky on the nose. Very well done with a beginning, middle and end. Delicate with good fruit and acidity. Good balance and apparent potential for aging. Longo. More complex than most.

Serve with

To be dished up with gamey meats as well as others red meat dishes.

Cellaring

This delicious wine is dense and structured with good acidity: should age well. It will last more than fifteen years.

Scores/Awards

90 points - Mark Squires, Wine Advocate #216 (Part 2) - January 2015

17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 18, 2013

Reviews

"The 2009 Vinhas Velhas is all Baga, designated with the Beiras appellation and aged for 12 months in used French oak. It comes in at 13% alcohol. Aromatically earthy, this combines notable tannins with a crisp, tight finish. The mid-palate is on the elegant side. The finish is gripping, although the wine does not have a lot of mid-palate concentration. Pato was talking to me recently about a comparative tasting with some Barolos. This surely makes that point very well. It has a strong, old-style, Piedmont feel to it in its purity, acidity and tight, tannic edge. It is a food wine and nothing but. However, of Pato's submissions, this is, in fact, relatively dense and accessible. While it has all of those intense structural components, it is far more approachable than some of Pato's young and powerful 2011s also submitted this issue. It may lack their verve, focus and intensity. Still, you can actually think about diving into this now, noting that it needs food and air. If you're looking for sweet, easy, fat and rich, look elsewhere. It is a lot of wine for the price if you value structure and complexity. There were just 8,700 bottles produced.



Reviews *Mostly on display here are Pato's 2011 reds, plus a couple of older wines and a dessert wine. The October issue featured some whites and sparklers. The 2011 vintage in most of Portugal was exceptional, producing concentrated and well-structured wines. At Luis Pato's winery, it produced no-holds-barred powerhouses. Luis Pato simply rocked this Tinto vintage, but be patient. These will not be easy wines. His 2011s lean to structure at the moment – tannin, acidity, pure power, Baga in full flight. They also have fine concentration, though. Pato said to me: "They are growing in character every 6 months...and it is a vintage with a long distance showing....a typical vintage to age." It is certainly a good vintage in which to illustrate Pato's point that there are some resemblances to Barolo here. I would add, that's more along the lines of old-style Barolo despite some of the oak treatment here. The wines have nuances at times of forest floor and amber. Often earthy and always intense, these are wines that require you to have a cellar, particularly at the upper levels. Don't expect modern, soft and sweet, especially in 2011. (The 2010s are rather more accessible.) Finally, note that appellations occasionally shift here. It can confuse the automated computer system at times. We will try to keep that straight. I've noted it in the notes as well. All of Pato's top wines, he says, were Bairrada DOC in 2011."*
- MS, Wine Advocate

"Baga. 45-year-old vines. 12 months in new and used French oak. Bright, deep cherry red. Lively red cherries on the nose too. Red fruit and a little herbal on the palate. Pure and concentrated without excess weight. Fine, taut and juicy, already surprisingly approachable."
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
