

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.

Quinta do Ribeirinho Pe Franco 2022

CSPC# 149102

3x750ml

13% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

100% Baga.

Winemaker

Luis Pato

Sustainability

Biodynamic

About

Luis Pato, a prominent figure in Portuguese winemaking from the Bairrada region, is celebrated for his ability to combine traditional techniques with innovative practices. As the region's first bottler, he embodies a non-conformist spirit, pushing boundaries to create exceptional wines.

Around 23 years ago, the Pé Franco project was created with the aim of recreating the style of wines produced in Europe before the arrival of phylloxera. To achieve this, a 1.2-hectare vineyard of the Baga variety was planted in sandy soils, using ungrafted vines — a traditional method that naturally protects against phylloxera due to the insects aversion to this type of soil. The project seeks to preserve the authenticity and original expression of the grape. This Baga comes from century-old vines grown in clay-limestone soils, with an extremely limited production of just 282 bottles. The wine now comes from a total of 2.5 hectares of vineyard, with very low yields — each vine produces only one bunch, meaning around six vines are needed to make a single bottle. This low production, combined with strict selection practices, results in a structured wine capable of balancing the grapes tannins and the regions natural acidity. It also stands out for its excellent ageing potential, exceeding 20 years, making it ideal for marking important life moments.

Vintage

The 2022 vintage in Portugal's Bairrada region—where the Luis Pato Quinta do Ribeirinho Pé Franco is grown—was defined by a notably hot, dry, and sunny growing season. Despite the extreme heat and dry conditions, the region avoided severe vine stress, allowing the ungrafted Baga grapes to reach optimal phenolic ripeness.

- **Lower Yields:** The hot and dry weather reduced berry sizes, naturally concentrating the grapes. The Pé Franco vines yielded exceptionally small quantities, taking about six vines to produce a single bottle.
- **Flavor Profile:** The warm vintage developed robust, powerful aromas of ripe red and wild berries.
- **Structure and Balance:** Despite the heat, the vineyard's deep sandy soils and the Baga grape's natural attributes maintained excellent acidity. The wine exhibits a firm, well-balanced structure with polished, refined tannins and vibrant freshness



Vineyards	The Quinta Do Ribeirinho Pé Franco Tinto 2022 is the purest expression of Bairrada and the Baga grape variety in the hands of Luís Pato. The wine now comes from an expanded area of 2.5 hectares. Since each vine produces only one cluster, i.e., one glass of wine, the annual work of six rows of vines is needed to obtain a bottle. This is due not only to the lower production of the non-grafted vine but also to the successive pruning we perform in order to obtain a very full-bodied wine, capable of hiding the tannins of the grape and the characteristic acidity of the region's climate.
Vineyards	Produced in vineyards planted on their own rootstock (without grafting), in sandy soils that repel phylloxera, this blend originates from very low-yielding vines—each vine usually produces only one bunch—and a philosophy of minimal intervention. The result is a concentrated, sincere red wine with enormous aging potential.
Harvest	Since his vineyard is planted in "Pé Franco", this vineyard has a production of 800Kg per hectare, approximately one bunch for each vine. Harvest is done in September each year.
Winemaking	Fermentation in Tonel (10-12 days). Aging in new Vosges and Nevers oak barrels of 500l for 22 months.
Tasting Notes	In the glass, it reveals a vibrant and deep color. On the nose, the purity of ripe fruit stands out, accompanied by herbaceous notes such as mint and a light background of spices, reflecting contact with the skin and careful aging. On the palate, the tannins are firm but refined, the acidity typical of Bairrada structures the whole, and the persistence is remarkable. With 13% vol., it presents a robust body and highlights an aging potential of over 20 years—a true time capsule for celebratory occasions.
Serve with	This wine calls for dishes of character: roast suckling pig or pork, grilled red meats, intensely flavored stews, and aged cheeses. Serve between 16–18 °C, ideally after a brief decanting to release its full aroma. For those seeking a red wine with regional identity, longevity, and history, the Quinta do Ribeirinho Pé Franco Tinto 2022 is an unequivocal choice. Perfect for aging, gifting on special occasions, or simply enjoying slowly, sharing stories around the table.
Cellaring	2026-2036
Production	25 cases
Scores/Awards	19/20 points - Revista de Vinhos (score only) - May 2024
