

PRODUCTION

100% Touriga Nacional. Foot trodden in granite lagares and fermented in stainless-steel vats before maturing for 16 months in French oak casks (40% new). Bottled in August 2019.

TERROIR

Still largely unexplored, the terroir in the Douro offers incredible opportunity. None more so than La Rosa's, whose vines rise dramatically out of the river with the imposing Vale do Inferno vineyard, and climb majestically up to an altitude of 500m with Lamelas, whose magnificent views overlook the very heart of the region. The estate's grapes are category A – the very best the Douro has to offer.

Schist and granite soils along with the extremely varied topography enable rich, full bodied wines to have remarkable acidity, minerality, and freshness. And it is this for which La Rosa has become renown; elegant wines that express terroir in bottle without too much extraction, tannin, oak.

This wine's grapes come from the vineyard's namesake which was replanted in 2006. Known for its exposure, intense heat, and high walls Vale do Inferno is the jewel in La Rosa's crown. It is a unique wine that shows the Douro's extremes where vines fight to survive but yet produce fruit that is so beautiful and special.

VINTAGE

Portugal, like the rest of Europe, experienced a particularly dry and hot spring and summer. High temperatures (40C+) and the lack of rain from June onwards meant that there were initial signs of water stress and dehydration, especially in south facing vines at lower altitude. Thankfully, expectations were high as our vines have adapted well to these extreme conditions and the grapes matured particularly early.

The 2017 vintage was one of the earliest of all time. La Rosa started picking from hottest parcels of Vale do Inferno on 21st August, whilst leaving others to mature further. Marginally fresher weather in mid-August helped develop aromas and complexity where needed. As our vines have adapted well to these extreme conditions expectations were high. Thankfully, the grapes matured well, although somewhat earlier than expected.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose the Vale do Inferno is extremely expressive with its complex bouquet comprising of succulent black and red fruits, as well as floral and citric notes. On the palate, it has unmatched intensity and is full of vibrant flavours, all the while maintaining seductive and mellow characteristics. Varied, yet well integrated high-quality tannins ensure unrivalled length and seriousness.



2017

