



Cockburn's has always questioned the so-called 'rules' for making port. Founded in 1815 by the Scottish brothers Robert and John Cockburn, they were guided by their conviction that "the quality of the wine – that is the first thing to be looked to" – and we've done our own things ever since.



COCKBURN'S QUINTA DOS CANAIS

VINTAGE PORT 2014

THE WINE

Quinta dos Canais is Cockburn's principal estate. Laid out on a natural amphitheatre overlooking a pronounced bend in the Douro River, this iconic estate has formed the backbone of Cockburn's Vintage Ports since the late 19th Century. With its south-facing vineyards and large proportion of mature Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca, the consistency of the wines from Quinta dos Canais is such that they form the principal component of Cockburn's declared Vintage Ports. In the intervening years, the best wines from the estate are blended on their own and bottled as Quinta dos Canais Vintage Port. The high level of maturation almost always achieved at the estate produces Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca wines at their best with typical floral aromas combined with "esteva" (gum- cistus). The wines are very full bodied with fresh acidity and with a characteristic dry finish of great length.

THE QUINTA

Quinta dos Canais has always provided the bedrock of Cockburn's legendary Vintage Ports and for several decades the Touriga Nacional has been at their heart. This variety was saved from near extinction largely through Cockburn's farsighted research work during the 1970s and 1980s and thanks to Cockburn's and a small handful of others, the Touriga Nacional was saved from oblivion. The absence of Touriga Nacional would be unthinkable to any Port winemaker, considering the importance the variety represents for producing outstanding Vintage Port. Today, approximately one third of Canais is planted with Touriga Nacional.

THE YEAR

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of this vintage was the pockets of the Douro that were less affected by the rain, highlighting the amazing diversity of microclimates of the region. Whereas very unsettled conditions were the norm during the harvest in most parts of the Douro, some localised parts of the valley were much less affected and this was particularly noticeable in areas of the Douro Superior such as Quinta dos Canais and other vineyards in the proximity. The wines made here were by far the best wines of the year. In such a diverse wine region it is certain some real gems will have been made as the grapes were in such lovely condition at the outset. Vineyards, such as Canais, lucky enough to escape the rain, will have made some really lovely Ports.

INFORMATION

Winemaker: Charles Symington & Ricardo Carvalho
 Blend: 65% Touriga Nacional, 15% Touriga Franca, 10% Mixed Vines, 5% Tinta Baroca, 5% Sousão
 Provenance: Quinta dos Canais
 Alcohol: 20 %
 Acidity: 4.5 g/L (tartaric acid)
 Baume: 3.7 °
 Year of Bottling: 2016
 Bottle Weight: 640.03 g

TASTING NOTES

The Canais 2014 has an inky purple/black colour. It has the typical lifted floral aromas (violets, roses) of the Touriga Nacional, which makes up 65% of the wine. The wine is well structured with an excellent balance, underscored by the fresh acidity and the 'grip' provided by the peppery tannins. The contributions made by the late ripening Touriga Franca, which was much more successful at Canais than in most other parts of the Douro, and the Sousão complement the Touriga Nacional very successfully, giving the wine a sense of balance and completeness.