

WINE DESCRIPTION

DOW'S 1980 VINTAGE PORT


ESTABLISHED 1798

DOW'S PORT

Dow's

Dow's is owned and managed by the fourth generation of the Symington family, Port producers since the 19th Century. The family, whose experience dates back over 100 years, supervises all the vineyards, winemaking and ageing of this wine.

Dow's owns two of the Douro's finest Quintas, Senhora da Ribeira and Bomfim. They were acquired in 1890 and 1896, making Dow's one of the first houses to invest in premium vineyards.

Tasting Notes

Despite its 26 years of age, this wine is notable for its deep and rich ruby colour. On the nose, there are complex aromas of red fruit and a touch of pepper and chocolate. Full bodied and still fresh, with good round tannins and the long and slightly dry finish that is characteristic of Dow's Vintage Port.

The Viticultural Year

Poor conditions during flowering and fruit-set reduced the crop size. Hot summer conditions proved very positive for ripening. Three days of rain during the harvest complicated matters, but picking took place at the right time and very good wines were made.

Reviews & Awards

"Opulent, smoky and very accessible with dense tannins, a herby concentration and pretty sweet."

Charles Metcalfe, Wine Magazine, December 2001

91 Points out of 100

"This has a very fine fruity palate with good ripe tannins and a long length. Excellent."

Godfrey Spence, Wine Magazine, December 2001

"Leading 1980 Vintage Ports. Dow's 1980. Black colour, still tight and closed but with huge intensity; bitter chocolate concentration."

Richard Mayson, Wine Magazine, September 2001

91 Points out of 100

"A forgotten wine that has always been outstanding. Firm and tight, with raspberry and all-spice character. Full-bodied and sweet, with a long, long finish."

James Suckling, The Wine Spectator, December 31st 1999

Peter Symington, responsible with his son Charles for the vineyards and wine making, has been made 'Fortified Wine Maker of the Year' an extraordinary 6 times by the 'Wine Challenge'. Nobody else has won this important award more than twice. In 2003, his son Charles won the same award.

Vintage Overview

1980 has always been a very underrated year, the good wines are outstanding. This Vintage is like the 1966 in that it only became recognised for its really top quality some years after the declaration. The 1977 had been given a great reception by the wine-writers, the trade and consumers. Inevitably the next declared vintage was never going to get the same treatment. In fact the good 1980 wines are excellent and are a real bargain at auction.

Contemporary Family comments

"Overcast and very muggy weather, temperatures 34° c at 8pm... vines looking nice and have evidently caught up nicely having been rather behind before-hand."

James Symington
25 August 1980

Wine Specifications

Alcohol: 20% vol (20°C)

Total acidity: 4.2 g/l tartaric acid

Baumé: 3.0

