

WINE DESCRIPTION

DOW'S 1999 LATE BOTTLED VINTAGE


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.

Late Bottled Vintage

Dow's 1999 Late Bottled Vintage is a wine of a single year but it is not a "declared" Vintage Port. Whereas Vintage Port spends only two years in oak cask and then matures in bottle, LBV is aged in seasoned oak casks and then bottled, when it is between four and six years old. At the time of bottling, Dow's LBV has completed its maturation and is ready for drinking without the need for decanting.

Tasting Notes

A very rich ruby colour. On the nose complex and with great purity of style. Intense fruit aromas, are complemented with hints of spices and violets. On the palate fresh and balanced, with an excellent tannic structure.

The Viticultural Year

The winter of 1998/1999 was exceptionally cold and dry, with only 71mm and 38mm of rain recorded at Quinta do Bomfim in January and February. This was 31% less than the 10 year average for the same period. As a result bud burst throughout the Douro was late, which had the advantage of avoiding damage from early spring frosts. This spell was eventually broken by wet weather returning in April and May, further slowing down vine development. Consequently flowering took place in late May at our riverside Quinta's Bomfim and Senhora da Ribeira. Flowering came under ideal conditions and set the scene for a larger than usual vintage, badly required after 1998's all-time low production in the Douro. June and July were warm and dry, and the consequences of the low winter rainfall were beginning to be felt, as by early August development was some two to three weeks behind the normal timetable with small and only partially coloured berries. Then miraculously during the weekend of 7th/8th August it rained steadily. This extremely welcome rain came just at the right time to freshen the grapes and within days had a beneficial effect on both berry size and colouring. The remainder of August was warm and dry followed by some more useful rain on the 4th September, allowing the grapes to ripen fully. Vintage at Dow's Quinta do Bomfim started on 20th September under ideal conditions.

Reviews & Awards

"A top house owned by the powerful British Symington family. The house style is intense and serious..."

Susan Keevil/Susy Atkins, Which? Wine Guide 2003

"Rating Portugal's producers of Port...Dow Five star***** (Outstanding)."

Robert Parker, Wine Buying Guide, 2003

"Style deliberately slightly drier than other shippers..."

Hugh Johnson's POCKET WINE BOOK 2005

Wine Specifications

Alcohol: 20% vol (20°C)

Total acidity: 3.75 g/l tartaric acid

Baumé: 3.5

