

QUINTA DO NOVAL

The astonishing terraced vineyards of Noval, perched above the Douro and Pinhao rivers, are an infertile schist, and not soil as much as sheer rock.



Cedro do Noval Branco Reserva 2021

Douro Valley, Portugal

ESTATE

One of the oldest port houses, Quinta do Noval is also arguably the greatest. It is unique among top port houses in that most of the ports are made from estate-grown fruit and, notably, all the vintage Noval wines are from the single Quinta do Noval vineyard. Noval is mentioned in land registries going back to 1715, and has been sold just twice in that time, once in the late 19th century, and to its present owners in 1993. Noval has, however, a reputation for being an innovative, independent producer. Noval is distinguished by dedicated focus to its vineyard and estate ports.

WINE

An authentic white wine with the ambitious to represent the best white wine produced in the Douro Valley. It is derived from a strict selection of the best batches of the Quinta's various indigenous grape varieties. Rich and structured, it is outstanding for its finesse and intensity.

VINEYARD

This wine is a blend of 60% Viosinho, 40% Gouveio, all coming from Quinta do Noval's vineyard. A plot filled with garrigue flowers.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 60% Viosinho, 40% Gouveio

Fermentation: The two varieties are destemmed and lightly crushed before pressing.

Aging: This wine is aged in 225-liter French oak barrels for 5 months, 50% in new barrels and 50% from barrels of two vintages, with a bâtonnage done 3 times a week.

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

The year began with a fairly wet winter followed by mild temperatures leading into spring. These two conditions led to an early budburst in March. April provided regular rainy spells that positively replenished the soil water reserves. Flowering occurred quite early in the beginning of May that led to expect an early harvest. July's mild weather started to shape the character of this harvest because it contrasted completely to last year's record setting temperatures during the same month. The mild conditions continued into August and led to a slow homogeneous ripening of the grapes and noticeably less dehydration than in 2020.

93

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"This is a complex white with aromas of dried lemons, nutmeg, cedar, jack fruit, praline and salted caramel. It's full-bodied with intense layers of grilled fruit and spice, accompanied by sharp acidity. 60% viosinho and 40% gouveio." - J.S, 8/22

91

Wine Spectator

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