

Azamor, Petit Verdot Vinho Regional Alentejano 2014

Alentejo, Portugal



PRODUCER

The family-owned Azamor estate was purchased by Alison and Joaquim Luiz-Gomes in 1998. Known as the "bread basket" of Portugal, the Alentejo has staked a claim as one of the country's most important red wine regions. It is renowned for its consistency of good quality, excellent value, fruit-driven wines. Unlike many producers in the region, Azamor's vineyards are planted on low vigour hillside sites, which gives their wines more depth of flavour. Alison uses a mixture of local varieties like Touriga Nacional, Trincadeira and Alicante Bouschet, as well as international ones such as Petit Verdot, Syrah and Merlot.

VINEYARDS

The Alentejo climate is known for its cold winters and hot summers. In the winter, the temperature can drop down to 0°C; in summer, it can rise to 43°C. Humidity ranges between 20% in the summer and 100% in the winter, with an average rainfall of 450mm per year. Due to limited water resources on the estate, in 2014 pruning practices were changed to a "dry" vineyard to ensure optimum quality and quantity of grapes.

VINTAGE

The 2014 growing season benefitted from a cool year with a wet spring and mild fresh summer. With the longer "hang time" and the cooler picking conditions the grapes were of exceptional quality: beautifully complex and balanced, thus far the best year of the decade.

VINIFICATION

Fermentation began slowly in five tonne lagars at around 21°C before gradually increasing to 24°C. After four days the grapes were pressed and transferred to stainless steel tanks to complete fermentation and undergo malolactic fermentation. The wine was then aged for 12 months: 35% in new and second use French (Saury) oak barrels, the remainder in stainless steel.

TASTING NOTES

This is a vibrant deeply coloured wine with delicate black fruit aromas complemented by smoky notes from the French oak. This elegant wine has soft ripe tannins and an excellent length.

AWARDS

Sommelier Wine Awards 2019, Silver

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| Grape Varieties | 100% Petit Verdot |
| Winemaker | Alison Luiz-Gomes |
| Closure | Natural Cork |
| ABV | 14% |
| Acidity | 5.4g/L |
| Wine pH | 3.59 |
| Bottle Sizes | 75cl |
| Notes | Vegetarian, Vegan |