



Name of Wine: Vinhas Velhas Red (Old Vines)

Producer: Luís Pato

Region: Vinho Regional Beiras, Portugal

Vintage: 2005

Grape Varieties: 100% Baga (One of the highest yielding Portuguese grape varieties, spread throughout the country but most concentrated in Bairrada and Dão. The grapes come into their own when well ripe, showing wines of deep color and great structure, with powerful tannins and everything in place to evolve well in the bottle.)

Age of Vines: Over 45 years old

Grape Source:

Vineyards: Estate owned vineyards located in Bairrada.

Soil: Clay soils rich in lime.

Vinification:

Harvest: Hand harvested. The first harvest, about 60%, from these vines go straight to the sparkling wine Baga Espumante Bruto. By doing this, the concentration and maturity of the remaining grapes is increased. The rest of the harvest, going towards Vinhas Velhas Tinto, is collected during late September.

Maceration/Fermentation: Fermented in stainless steel tanks for 10 days, it is then aged in new and older French oak barrels (650 litres of capacity) for 12 months.

Other:

Alcohol Volume: 13% **Ratings:** 100 Points Vinos Unico Staff

Tasting Notes:

Beautiful dark cherry and black fruit nose. Complex, spicy and intense. The palate has nice savory dark fruit notes with great focus and an earthy quality. Dense and structured with good acidity it will continue to evolve for up to 15 more years.

History:

It is one of the first Estate's in Bairrada to start bottling their wines in the 1970s. The owner Luis Pato is the winemaker and an intelligent, press-friendly ex-chemist. Ironically, although he's the one person who has probably done the most for the international visibility and reputation of the Bairrada region, Pato only bottles a few of his wines under the Bairrada appellation. Instead, he uses the wider generic VR Beiras label, as a protest against what he considers to be an over-legislative attitude of the regulating authorities. Due partly to Luis Pato's rebel-like actions with his wines in 2003 radical changes have been made to the DOC wine laws in Bairrada. Starting in 2008 Luis Pato's top reds started using the Bairrada designation again. Luis Pato has done so much to elevate the status of the Baga grape his nickname is now "Mr. Baga."

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