



Name of Wine: Soalheiro Primeiras Vinhas Alvarinho
Producer: VinuSoalleirus
Region: Vinho Verde sub-region of Monção and Melgaço
Vintage: 2008
Vine Ages: Average 35 years old
Grape Varieties: 100% **Alvarinho** (The superstar white grape of the Vinho Verde region aka Albariño across the border in Spain. It can make rich, full-bodied and fragrant whites and in Portugal they tend to have a more mineral based structure)

Cases Produced: Less than 300 a year.

Grape Source:

Vineyards: Made from the estates **organically farmed** oldest vines planted in 1974 located in Melgaço.

Soil: Granite.

Vinification:

Harvest/Maceration/Fermentation: Hand harvested and fermented over 4 months using only native yeast in stainless steel tanks with lengthy lees aging. 10-15% of the juice spends time aging in used oak barrels.

Other:

Alcohol Volume: 13%

Ratings: 100 Points Vinos Unico Staff

Tasting Notes:

This is one of the most focused and intense white wines from Portugal or from any place for that matter. Beautiful ripe tropical fruit aromas, think pineapple, plenty of racy acidity and a complex mineral frame that will have your taste buds spinning. It doesn't get much better than this for white wines!

History:

In 1974 João António Cerdeira supported by his father Antonio Esteves Ferreira planted 4 hectares of Alvarinho, just outside of Portugal's most northerly town of Melgaço. In 1982 they produced the first Alvarinho wine in Melgaço – Soalheiro. João, who along with his son Luis, a trained winemaker, runs the vineyards. Primeiras Vinhas is a collaboration between current winemaker Luis Cerdeira and famed Douro winemaker Dirk Niepoort. The first Primeiras Vinhas vintage was 2006. Their goal was to make the best Alvarinho in Portugal, they wholly exceeded expectations because now Primeiras Vinhas is now widely considered Portugal's top white. If it's anything like the original Soalheiro Alvarinho this white should have a very, very long life ahead!

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