



Name of Wine: Soalheiro Alvarinho

Producer: VinuSoalleirus

Region: Vinho Verde sub-region of Monção and Melgaço

Vintage: 2009

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)

Grape Source:

Vineyards: Over 10 hectares of **organically farmed** vineyards over some fantastic sites near the town of Melgaço in an area they call “the suntrap”.

Soil: Granite.

Vinification:

Harvest/Maceration/Fermentation: Hand harvested and fermented with native yeast in stainless steel tanks. No oak aging. No malolactic fermentation.

Other:

Alcohol Volume: 12.5%

Ratings: **100 Points** Vinos Unico Staff

Tasting Notes:

Nose of jasmine flower, citrus, and pear. The palate is intense with steely minerality, and lush tropical fruit notes. Dry, medium bodied, with lively acidity, and a long finish. This wine is lean and mineral driven with a focused intensity when young but transforms with gorgeous smoky citrus nuances with a bit of age which it can do for many years to come!

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. João started off as a tax inspector. After doing military service in Mozambique, he returned home to where his father owned some small vineyards of Alvarinho grapes. After the April Revolution in 1974, João decided to expand the family vineyards by illegally planting 4 hectares of Alvarinho to make the biggest single vineyard of the whole region (these plantings were legalized later). Joao spent some of his early wine career in Burgundy learning his trade and is widely regarded throughout Portugal as one of the leading producers of Alvarinho in Portugal today. This is one of the best if not top Alvarinho coming out of Portugal today!

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