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## HARVEST REPORT - FROM THE HEART OF PORTUGAL

Harvest began extra early this year - the second week of August in fact - a week earlier on average than normal. The early start was due to, in part, from the drier conditions received during the 2014/2015 winter season. The first wineries to begin harvest were located in the [Charneca zone](#) located in the south side of the Tejo River. The wineries in the Bairro zone to the north of the Tejo River started shortly thereafter.

Overall, this central Portugal region was marked by dry conditions that persisted in the winter continued through much of spring and summer. The region saw below average precipitation during the 2015 growing season. As harvest neared, the drier conditions eased disease pressure throughout all of Tejo contributing very clean vineyards being reported. As was the case across much of Europe, temperatures were warmer than average, particularly at the beginning of the season in May and June, with more moderate temperatures in July and August. At the conclusion of harvest on October 15, the quality expectation for the 2015 vintage is excellent compared to other years with a total estimated production of 578,000 hectoliters.

Please [check out some photos](#) of some of our Tejo wineries during the harvest.

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## TEJO'S COMMUNITY HARVEST CELEBRATION: DIA DA ADIAFA

The Tejo region is overflowing with history and tradition, particularly as it relates to its wine industry. One tradition of note is the Dia da Adiafa, a deep local community celebration that marks the end of the grape harvest.

From the Arabic “addyafa,” the specific date varies from winery to winery, depending on when they finish the last day of harvest, but it takes place most often in mid-October. On the last day around mid-morning, the workers bring in the final basket of grapes that is then pinned with that winery’s ceremonial Adiafa flag, which signifies the end of harvest. From there the party begins, and the winery prepares a large lunchtime feast for the locals who have worked in the vineyards all season long, and the celebration goes on into the evening with plenty of food, wine, and traditional song and dance.



To see some of this year’s celebration, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

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# FEATURED GRAPE VARIETIES: ALVARINHO, CASTELÃO, ARAGONEZ



**ALVARINHO** is grown throughout Portugal and is easily the country's most well known white variety. The grape produces a wine that is characterful, fuller in body and with zesty acidity. The best show examples are highly aromatic with notes of peach, passion fruit, orange blossom and lychee.



**CASTELÃO** is found predominately in southern Portugal, but also prospers in the poor, sandy-clay soils found throughout the Tejo region. The grape has the ability to produce well-structured wines with vibrant acidity and an endearing rustic quality with notes of plum, red currants and meaty aromas.



**ARAGONEZ** is known to the Spaniards as tempranillo and as tinta roriz in Northern Portugal. It makes wines that are rich and robust, and is often found in blends rather than as a single-varietal wine. Thriving in both sandy and clay soils, aragonez produces smooth, fruit-forward wines with undertones of spice.

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## FEATURED WINERIES

### **QUINTA DA ALORNA**



Dom Pedro Miguel de Almeida, first Marquis of Alorna, who named the estate after conquering the Alorna Fort in Goa, India, founded Quinta da Alorna in 1723. Located near the famous Tejo River, the estate is known not only for its wines, but also for the splendor of the sprawling estate, which is comprised of over 2,800 hectares near Santarém. For more than five generations, the Lopo de

Carvalho family has been committed to cultivating the best Portuguese and international grapes on the estate's 220 hectares of vineyards and to producing the highest quality wines that reflect the region's character, history and terroir.

## QUINTA DA LAGOALVA DE CIMA



Quinta da Lagoalva de Cima was purchased in 1834 by Henrique Teixeira de Sampaio, the First Count of Póvoa. When his daughter Maria Luisa Noronha de Sampaio married Domingos António Maria Pedro de Souza e Holstein, the Second Duke of Palmela, in 1842, their assets were incorporated into the House of Palmela. Throughout generations, Quinta da Lagoalva de Cima has remained in the possession of the descendants of the Second Duke of Palmela. The estate began as a stud farm raising Lusitano horses for carriages, leisure, bull

fighting and dressage. The family's commitment to wine dates back to 1888 and today the 45 hectares of vineyards are planted with the best Portuguese and international varietals expressive of its unique terroir.

## QUINTA DA LAPA



Established in 1733, Quinta da Lapa remains one of the oldest wine estates in the Tejo region. Located in the highlands north of the Tejo river, the estate's 30 hectares of vineyards are planted in calcareous-clay soils that slope to the south receiving maximum sun exposure. The unique terroir is subject to warm summer days and cool nights and mornings, perfect to even, gradual ripening of

grapes. The wines of Quinta da Lapa achieve the intricate balance between power and finesse coupled with great freshness and minerality that offer a unique sense of place in every glass.

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NEW TO THE U.S. MARKET



## **FALUA**



Falua is a state of the art winery located, about 70 km north of Lisbon, very near to the Tejo River. Built with the most sophisticated and modern equipment, Falua now produces more than three million bottles of high quality red, white, rosé and sparkling wines. Falua's vineyards are planted on the Charneca and Campo

terroirs and include the best of Portugal's native varieties for the production of its wines. Falua is part of the João Portugal Ramos wine group and benefits from the winemaking expertise and leadership of this renowned winemaker, who had one of his wines selected for the [2015 Wine Spectator Top 100 List](#).

Now available through the [Winebow Group](#).

## **QUINTA DO ARROBE**



The modern day Quinta do Arrobe was established in 2011 by the Gaspar family who's viticultural and winemaking roots date back to 1882 when their great grandfather planted his first vineyards in the Tejo region. Located near Santarém, the vineyards are planted on the hillsides of the Tejo River where the soil is comprised of calcareous clay. With an unrivaled commitment to quality, the Gaspar family has worked tirelessly to select

the best indigenous and international varietals that express the unique characteristics of their terroir and make wines that truly awaken all of the five senses.

Now available in Rhode Island.

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## **RECENT TRADE AND MEDIA EVENTS**

Wines of Tejo recently hosted trade and media at two seminars in Chicago and San Francisco in September. Each seminar was led by Master Sommelier Eric Entrikin and featured ten producers from the region.



In Chicago, [Sepia](#) delighted guests with a seasonal menu prepared by Michelin-star chef Andrew Zimmerman that paired exceptionally well with the selection of Tejo wines. Check out [some photos](#) from this event.



In San Francisco, a packed house of over 30 trade and media enjoyed 10 Tejo wines paired with a comforting and creative menu by Chef Matthew Dolan at [25 Lusk](#). For more photos from this event [check out our Facebook page](#).

Are you a credentialed trade or media professional and want to learn more about these beautifully crafted wines from the heart of central Portugal? In 2016, Wines of Tejo will be hosting several more seminars in various cities across the U.S. For more information please contact Allison Slute, [trade@winesoftejo.com](mailto:trade@winesoftejo.com) or 202-499-4264.

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

Thank you for subscribing to the Wines of Tejo e-newsletter specifically catering to trade and media in the U.S. Your feedback is welcome! Please send comments and questions to [trade@winesoftejo.com](mailto:trade@winesoftejo.com).

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## CONTACT INFO

Wines of Tejo has a U.S. trade office in Washington D.C. and a media relations firm in New York City. Click [here](#) to get in touch.



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## STAY CONNECTED!

For regular updates including events, wine reviews, tools and tips, you can follow Wines of Tejo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



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