

50+ WINES REVIEWED PAGE 101

15 FANTASTIC WINES FOR WEEKDAY MEALS PAGE 93

NAPA'S BEST KEPT SECRET PAGE 87

WINE ENTHUSIAST

THE WORLD OF GLASS

OCTOBER 2015



40 UNDER 40

THE TASTEMAKERS INFLUENCING WHAT YOU DRINK NOW PAGE 43

iwemag.com

Anthony Belliveau-Flores, Nikki Haganir, Erica Blumenthal & John Belliveau-Flores

ALENTEJANO

94 Fitapreta Vinhos 2012 Palpite Grande Reserva (Alentejano). Aragonéz is the main force behind this smooth, rich wine. It has great tannins that are cushioned comfortably by the rich, juicy berry fruits. Spice and acidity roll around the mouth, giving a lift to the rich, still firmly tannic wine. Drink this impressive wine from 2018. MoDimports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Herdade de São Miguel 2011 Private Collection (Alentejano). A selection of the best lots of wine from the 2011 vintage, this is a blend of Aragonéz and Alicante Bouschet. Wood aging has given this rich wine a smooth and creamy texture, offering an opulent companion to the dense black fruits and acidity. It is a powerful wine, although not showing its high alcohol because of the fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2018. Tri-Vin Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 Adega Mayor 2009 Siza Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano). Named after Siza Vieira, the architect of the modern Adega Mayor winery, this dense, darkly colored wine is hugely ripe, with great fruits and rich coffee and spice flavors. It's a wine that perfectly fits the adjective opulent, powered by great fruits and dense tannins, with fine aging potential. Drink from 2017. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Herdade dos Grous 2011 Reserve (Alentejano). Well-known winemaker Luis Duarte runs this winery on a colonial estate turned hotel two hours southeast of Lisbon. Serious wood aging, leaving concentrated notes of spice and toast, haven't taken away from the considerable potential of this powerful wine. Dark tannins and brooding flavors of black plum and damson skin suggest this wine will develop well, with a rich future. Drink from 2018. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Monte da Ravasqueira 2012 Vinha das Romãs (Alentejano). This is a ripe, perfumed wine, with flavors from 20 months in new oak of mint and spice. It is full of balanced black-currant and red-plum fruits that are laced by delicious acidity. This serious blend of Syrah and Touriga Franca will age well, so drink from 2018. The de Mello family began satellite tracking vines, soils and weather by vineyard block in this harvest year. Artisan Vines Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Adega Mayor 2011 Pai Chão (Alentejano). This is a rich, full-bodied and finely structured wine. Named after the patriarch of the estate, it is firmly packed with dark plum and ripe black-

berry fruits that are flanked by a dense texture and balanced acidity. It needs some time, so drink from 2018. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Azamor 2010 Icon d'Azamor (Alentejano). Made only in the best years, this flagship wine from Herdade do Zambujal is powerful, solidly tannic and packed with dark, brooding fruits. Big and dense, it has weight as well as layers of wood aging balanced against the opulent fruits and acidity. It still needs to develop, so drink from 2018. America Uncorked. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Fitapreta Vinhos 2011 Preta (Alentejano). With its wire caged bottle, the wine appears as though it is Spanish. The flavors, though, are all Portuguese. Dominated by Touriga Nacional's distinctive perfumed and dry tannin character, with the addition of the powerfully juicy Alicante Bouschet, the wine is dark, solid and still coming together. It is concentrated and rich, shot through with acidity. Drink from 2017. MoDimports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Herdade de São Miguel 2012 Reserva (Alentejano). This is a serious, concentrated wine. Still young, with dark tannins to go with the dark fruit, it was fermented in open tanks, a process that gives the wine extra richness. It has hints of the wood aging behind the ripe fruit and final acidity. Drink from 2017. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Azamor 2010 Red (Alentejano). Still firm in tannins, this has developed into an austere and dark wine. It is serious and solid, with a firm, brooding character and layers of acidity as well as black currant fruits. It is probably ready to drink now. America Uncorked. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Monte da Ravasqueira 2012 Reserva (Alentejano). Touriga Nacional and Syrah make a harmonious blend in this dense, structured wine. With complex tannins that need to soften into the ripe fruit, the wine is still developing. It's dry for now, although the black plum and berry flavors will be delicious. Drink this age worthy wine from 2017. Artisan Vines Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Azamor 2011 Petite Verdot (Alentejano). A dark, almost black color is a reminder of Petite Verdot's traditional use to give color in the Bordeaux blend. The wine also has a stylish, aromatic character that brings out black fruits and generous tannins. It's rich and still young. Drink from 2017. America Uncorked. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Azamor 2010 Selected Vines (Alentejano). Made from a selection of premium parcels, this wood-aged wine still shows evidence of its

toast and firm extract. So although there is plenty of fruit there, it's the dry core that is evident. It could still soften, so wait until 2017 to drink. America Uncorked. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2011 Touriga Nacional-Petit Verdot (Alentejano). One of the more surprising things about southern Portugal is how well the Bordeaux-based Petit Verdot does. In this wine, it gives both almost black color and bold, ripe blackberry fruitiness. They go well with the firmer tannins of Touriga Nacional to produce a wine that will age. Drink from 2018. Grape Moments. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Herdade de São Miguel 2013 Ciconia Reserva (Alentejano). This ripe and structured wine is poised between rich berry fruits and a solid, dark tannic core. It has great fruitiness that envelops the dry center, showing wood and spice flavors that are coming together well. Drink this fine wine from 2018. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

90 Monte da Ravasqueira 2013 Red (Alentejano). From limestone and granite soils, this is a structured, mineral, textured wine. It already has a fine balance between berry fruits and their acidity and a dense, dry tannic core that gives the wine a solid character and considerable potential. Drink from 2018. Artisan Vines Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Azamor 2013 Red (Alentejano). For its alcohol, this is a surprisingly light and fruity wine. It does have tannins although they are subservient to the red berry fruitiness and freshness of the wine. It's balanced and aromatic, and could age further. Drink from 2017. America Uncorked. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Fitapreta Vinhos 2010 Tinto Castelão Reserva (Alentejano). More commonly found in coastal Setúbal, here, Castelão yields a fruity, soft and ready-to-drink wine. It has red berry and plum flavors and the lightest hint of tannins to give shape to the juicy core. Drink now. MoDimports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Herdade de São Miguel 2014 Ciconia Touriga Nacional (Alentejano). This 100% Touriga Nacional wine is tight in character, with a lean and severe edge of tannins. It has considerable potential to round out, with ripe black currant and berry flavors. Drink after the tannins have softened, from 2017. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Casca Wines 2012 Monte Cascas Reserva (Alentejano). This is a ripe, structured wine. It has complex black fruits and layers of spice from wood aging. Dominated by Alicante Bouschet, it is dark in color, packed with dense tannins and