

***Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes  
Friday, October 19th, 4:00 to 7:00 pm:  
The Wines of Portugal's  
Alentejo and Douro Valley  
With Ray Bloom of Vinum Wines  
And a Special Encore Treat:  
The Mobile Lunchbox Returns!***

***\$10 Tasting Fee***

Friday's Portuguese wine tasting with **Ray Bloom** of **Vinum Wines** will feature amazing wines from **Quinta de la Rosa** in Portugal's northern **Douro River Valley**, the traditional home of Port wines (yes, it's the same river that runs through Spain's Ribera del Duero wine region). It will also allow us to taste the wines of two highly respected wineries from Portugal's southwestern **Alentejo region**: the highly respected **Herdade do Mouchão** and **Herdade do Esporão**.



**Tim Bergqvist** and his daughter, **Sophia** run the Quinta de la Rosa estate in the heart of the upper Douro. Their family has been making Port since 1815, and since the early 1990's they have pioneered quality red wine production in the Douro region. Quinta de la Rosa has won acclaim for its red wines as well as its Ports with accolades from the wine press and placements in finer restaurants around the world. With winemaker **Jorge Moreira** at the helm and a range of elevations to draw upon (150m at the river up to 400m), the wines are poised, with consummate balance.

***2007 Quinta de la Rosa DouRosa Branco \$14.99***

This lively and focused white wine offers pithy grapefruit and tangy citrus fruit and lemon peel balanced by fresh acidity. The wine is blended from the Douro white grape varieties traditionally used for making white Port. Those grapes come from nearby high altitude vineyards above the Douro Valley specifically chosen by wine maker, Jorge Moreira, for their fruit quality and acidity. **This wine was rated at 85 Points by the *Wine Advocate*.**

***2009 Herdade Mouchão Dom Raphael Tinto, Alentejo \$13.99***

The rolling landscape of Portugal's Alentejo region covers nearly a third of Portugal. Stretching all the way from the coast eastward to the frontier with Spain, it is dominated by cork forests and olive groves. The vineyards of Alentejo are located between Lisbon and the Algarve on Portugal's south coast. Braving the excesses of the intense climate, wild rabbits and pata negra pigs, the region's winemakers have persevered with outstanding results.

**Dom Rafael** is the second label of the celebrated **Herdade do Mouchão** and the wines are softer and more approachable in youth than their illustrious sibling. The Dom Rafael wines are made using modern technology in their own spanking new state of the art winery. This red, produced from Alicante Bouschet, Trincadeira, Aragonez grapes, is packed with concentrated

fruit. Aging takes place in vat and barrel for about a year with an additional six months aging in bottle before release.

### **2006 Quinta de la Rosa Douro Tinto \$20.99**

Full and rich, deep in color, with lively fruit and subtle oak, this red from Portugal's Douro Valley shows intriguing mineral, pepper and spicy notes that reflect the complex flavors often found in Port.

**The Wine Enthusiast** awarded this wine **90 Points**, "Powerful, ripe wine with black fruits and a great swathe of dark tannins. The flavors of berries, black plums, black figs and sage are echoed by warm, herbal and wild flower aromas. This is a big wine, which needs at least a year to age." **The Wine Spectator** rated the **2006 Quinta de la Rosa** at **88 Points**,

### **2008 Esporão Reserve Tinto \$24.99**

A blend of Aragones, Trincadeira, Cabernet Sauvignon and Alicante Bouschet, this dark ruby blend opens with fragrant blueberry aromas with hints of raspberry and oak. On the palate, this wine is fruit forward, medium bodied and showing good acidity. The flavor profile is a mineral infused red currant and plum blend with a hint of black pepper.

### **2003 Herdade do Mouchão "Mouchão Tinto," Alentejo \$48.99**

Mouchão has been owned by the Reynolds family since the mid-19th century, when **Thomas Reynolds** moved south from Porto to the Alentejo in search of a cork estate. Even today the Mouchão estate is mostly cork grove, with a bit of vineyard, although it's the wine that Mouchão is known for.

The estate is unusual because it uses a very high percentage of the Alicante Bouschet grape and maintains a curious collaboration between modern complex trellising in the vineyard and very traditional wine making techniques including foot treading in granite lagares.

**Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate** rated this wine at **93 Points**, "For those looking to learn about Alicante Bouschet, beginning with this beautiful, young 2003 Tinto might be the way to go—it is fresh, with good depth, round, ripe, and easy to love and understand. It is nuanced by lovely cherry notes, with perhaps a hint of kirsch followed by a hint of game after some aeration. It is hardly a fruit bomb, however. Beautifully structured. It is simply delicious. Drink now-2028."

### **2004 Quinta de la Rosa LBV Port \$19.99**

This LBV (late bottled vintage) port was made in the traditional manner by winemaker Jorge Moreira and his team: foot trodden in granite Lagares from traditional Port 'A' level grapes grown at Quinta de la Rosa in the Douro Valley. The 2004 vintage LBV is concentrated, with a high alcohol level and good acidity. This LBV was matured in large wooden casks called 'tonels' in their cellars for four-to-six years until ready for bottling.

The wine is a lively, profound ruby with fresh aromas of wild berries and roses along with sweeter notes like those emanating from a cake bakery. The palate shows vigour and strength, with a seductive roundness that encourages you to take another sip and another. Its structure and tannins provide length and guarantee its longevity if you were to age it, but why wait?