

# QUINTA DO PORTAL

ENÓLOGOS DISTINTOS  
FINE WINEMAKERS

## QUINTA DO PORTAL DECLARES THE 1997 VINTAGE

It is with great pleasure that Quinta do Portal announce the release of their Portal 1997 Vintage Port.

The winter of 1997 was harsh with snow covering our Quintas in early January. However it was quite a brief winter - February and March were very warm, with temperatures as high as 30°C. No rain fell until March which led to 'bud burst' two weeks earlier than usual and rapid vine development.

In April and May the wet weather returned and cooled down for the remainder of Spring, allowing for an even development. By mid-August we had hot and dry conditions that remained throughout September. This allowed excellent ripening of the grapes.

The grapes for our 1997 were hand-picked on the 16<sup>th</sup> September with sugar readings averaging an outstanding 13º Baumé. Compared to the 1996 vintage the yields were down by approximately 50%, only averaging 1kg per vine, but the quality was exceptional.

The grapes arrived to the winery at a perfect temperature between 18-20°C meaning that very little cooling was required. This was particularly useful in the production of the 1997 vintage as all the grapes were foot trodden in lagares at Quinta dos Muros.

The Port wines were intensely concentrated with powerful aromas and they had an impressive purple colour.

Our 1997, which is our second 'Declared Vintage', has a concentrated complexion of deep purple, it is perfumed with intense bitter chocolate aromas, cassis and raspberry jam. It possesses an extremely well balanced structure with immense power on the finish – a memorable wine waiting to be discovered.

We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Eugénio Branco

Pedro Mansilha Branco

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Paulo Coutinho



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