



ESTABLISHED 1798

DOW'S PORT

DOW'S DECLARES THE EXCEPTIONAL 2007 VINTAGE PORT

We are pleased to announce the declaration of our Dow's 2007 Vintage Port, a wine of very great quality with the pedigree of such wines as the Dow's 1896, 1908, 1945, 1966 and 2000. Dow's ranking amongst the finest producers of Vintage Port derives from the excellence of our two vineyards, Quinta do Bomfim and Quinta da Senhora da Ribeira, from which generations of our family have developed the distinctive dry Dow's style.

As so often happens in great Vintage years, conditions were less than perfect through some stages of the viticultural cycle and 2007 was no different. A drier than usual winter was followed by a most untypically cool and damp spring, requiring a great deal of hard work to safeguard the developing fruit. Fortunately, things changed for the better during August which although cooler than average, was also very dry. The scene was set for a perfect period of grape maturation, the cool days and nights proving ideal for a full and balanced ripening of the crop. Dry weather continued into September leading up to the vintage which got under way in perfect conditions.

2007 was undoubtedly one of the best years we have ever seen for Touriga Nacional, a variety that can suffer from excessive heat. The cooler temperatures registered during the final growing period paved the way for ideal maturations, lending the Nacional excellent sugar/acidity balance and ideal phenolic ripeness. We therefore decided on a final blend that comprised of 54% Touriga Nacional. The latter was sourced from low-yielding parcels of the Bomfim vineyard, which produced wines with Dow's typically austere character and also from Senhora da Ribeira which by comparison delivered slightly richer wines.

The other key component (26%) of the Dow's 2007 is the Touriga Franca which realized its full development potential given its late ripening characteristics, well suited to the cooler conditions of the year. Sourced from Senhora da Ribeira and the neighbouring and family owned Santinho and Cerdeira vineyards, the Franca shows prominent violet aromas and softer, sweeter tannins which complement the Touriga Nacional.

As in previous Vintages, we have remained true to the Dow's house style, making a wine that is not merely meant to flatter when young but, more importantly, to stay the course and to express the outstanding pedigree of Dow's Vintage Port over many decades. The Dow '07 will prove to be a sensational wine when the world's economies have long moved on from their current troubles.

Johnny Symington, Oporto, Portugal.
March 24th, 2009