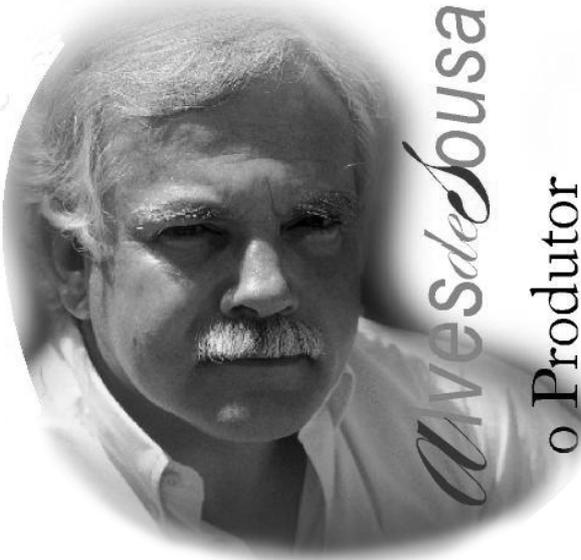


*Alves de Sousa*



*Alves de Sousa*

o Produtor  
the Producer



*Alves de Sousa*

a História  
History



*Alves de Sousa*

as Quintas  
Estates

*Alves de Sousa*

*The Producer*

*Domingos Alves de Sousa*

*The Douro has a unique landscape. It is the world's first demarcated and regulated wine region (1756) and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are few places that reflect so well the admirable feats that can spring from Man's effort and dedication. It is in this region that Domingos Alves de Sousa produces his wines, according to a family tradition of 5 generations.*

*The old and ever-present wish to find the best embodiment of a vineyard lead Alves de Sousa to convert into wine only the grapes from his own vineyards, truly unique terroirs for the magnificent diversity of the region's natural varieties.*

*The quality and singularity of his wines have been widely recognised with distinctions and mentions in the most acclaimed national and international publications. A very special highlight for the "Producer of the Year" award presented in 1999 and again in 2006 by the most important Portuguese Wine Magazine ("Revista de Vinhos"), becoming the first in the history to receive twice the most coveted and prestigious distinction for Portuguese wine producers.*

## The History

*The production of wines is a family tradition for Domingos Alves de Sousa: his father (Edmundo Alves de Sousa) and grandfather (Domingos Alves de Sousa) had already been winegrowers in the Douro. Contrarily to what it would be expected, Domingos Alves de Sousa held another career at the beginning of his professional activity. But after having his degree in Civil Engineering, he couldn't resist any longer to the double appeal (of the land and the blood), and abandoned its activity in 1987 to dedicate himself in exclusive to the exploration of the "Quintas" (estates) he received from his family inheritance and to other properties later acquired, where he executed a precise work of gathering and reorganization of the vines. The evolution of its winegrower activity has some interesting, almost paradigmatic, aspects and deserves a little of history.*

*For many years he supplied some of the most famous and prestigious Port companies like Ferreira and Borges Wines. But the problems that affected the sector in the end of the eighties that lead to an exaggerated increase of the production costs, and in particularly the catastrophic 1988 vintage, lead the family to question the models followed until that day.*

*And this was the changing point.*

*Like many other Douro grape growers, affected by the depression that the Demarcated Region was passing, Domingos Alves de Sousa turned himself to the valuation of the "leftovers" of the Port Wine (as it was considered in that days), meaning, the Douro wines, until then traditionally forgotten in relation to the "generous wine" (Port).*

*But this radical change of attitude demanded not only simple good will and desire to be successful. It demanded also technical and professional formation. So he studied viticulture and winemaking and armed with all the knowledge gathered, launched hands to the reorganization of his vines. Determined to make his own way as producer-bottler, it was build in the family's "Quinta da Gaivosa" the winery where, from that day to beyond it was going to be vinified the production of Gaivosa and the other "Quintas".*

*Concluded some experiences with different grape varieties, it was selected the ones that revealed to be more appropriable to produce the best wines of D.O.C. Douro, and with them it was produced and launched in the market, in middle of 1992, that it would be its first wine: Quinta do Vale da Raposa white 1991. Soon it had the attention of wine lovers and it deserved the best references. It was the beginning of a trail filled of successes that came until the present days, and still with much to give.*

## *The winemaker*

### *Tiago Alves de Sousa*

*Born in a family with strong roots in the Douro Valley and a long winegrowing tradition, to Tiago Alves de Sousa the land appeal was listened from a tender age. With a degree in Agricultural*



*Engineering by the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, he was distinguished in March of 2003 with the award Foundation “António de Almeida”, given to the best student of the degree, and received also a special distinction by the Portuguese government. After some periods of vintage training, complemented with studies of winemaking and viticulture and a passage through the Institute of Viticulture of the Università Cattolica de Piacenza (Italy) where he collaborated with the reputed Professors Mario Fregoni and Luigi Bavaresco he joins officially the team in 2002. In January 2011 Tiago concluded a PhD in Viticulture at the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro with maximum classification. He has several publications about Viticulture in international scientific magazines and in conference proceedings, being often invited to give lectures in Portugal and abroad. Today he’s responsible for the winemaking of all the Alves de Sousa family’s Douro & Port wines, being also responsible for several export markets. He is one of the members of the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Alves de Sousa family.*

## The “Quintas”

*For the best wines, the best grapes.*

*All the grapes used come from Alves de Sousa’s “Quintas” (estates).*

*We’re present at the birth, we follow the first steps, acting always when necessary. Until the maturity. And harvested the fruits it begins a new cycle, and later another one. With an endless devotion but so rewarding...*

*The central role of the vineyards in the development of the wines resulted in a steady investment over the years. Restructuring, land consolidating, research, acquisition of new plots. Today the vineyards cover an area of approximately 130 ha, distributed between 6 “Quintas”:*

- . Gaivosa*
- . Vale da Raposa*
- . Caldas,*
- . Estação*
- . Azeiteira*
- . Oliveirinha*

*The ecological diversity (in terms of microclimate, soil and altitude), the terroir, the specificities of each “Quinta” allows obtaining wines of great character and quality.*

*In parallel with the family's important grape growing legacy, the vineyards of tomorrow are also being prepared today. Employing a whole set of scrupulous and innovative technical means, without neglecting, however, the knowledge passed down to us by our ancestors: the polyclonal selection and sustainable farming; the recovery of varieties, such as Tinta Amarela, Sousão and Malvasia Preta, and the personal commitment to traditional vineyards. The result is a blend of tradition and modernity.*

## The awards

*The quality and singularity of the Alves de Sousa family's wines have been widely recognized with awards and mentions in the most acclaimed national and international publications:*

*. Over 100 medals (including 40 Gold medals) in international wine competitions in 7 different countries (Decanter World Wine Awards, Challenge International du Vin, Concours Mondial de Bruxelles, Citadelles du Vin, Berliner Wein Trophy, Int. Wine Challenge, Citadelles du Vin, Wines of Portugal Challenge, etc.).*

*. Respected American publication Robert Parker's "The Wine Advocate", in its first major article about Portuguese wines, when referring to the Alves de Sousa wines: "their line-up included some of the most enjoyable wines I reviewed". Translation: 14 wines rated between 90 and 96 points since then, scores reserved only to the best wines in the world.*

*. In a complete report by respected British critic Jancis Robinson, among 122 Portuguese wines tasted, only 4 reached 18 points (out of 20) and 2 of which were from the Alves de Sousa family. The same author together with Hugh Johnson in the international bestseller "World Atlas of Wine" divides Douro in 3 great styles - one of them is "the solidity of the schist of Gaivosa".*

*. Prestigious UK publication Decanter Magazine scored Alves de Sousa's Abandonado red 19 out of 20, the highest score ever for a Portuguese non-fortified wine.*

*. In recent years the Alves de Sousa family has been part of the restrict group of 4-5 Portuguese companies (already including the main houses of Port) invited to participate in the prestigious "Decanter Fine Wine Encounter" in London .*

*The international recognition and prestige has also a very special parallel in Portugal, with a very special highlight for the "Producer of the Year" award presented in 1999 and again in 2006 by the most important Portuguese Wine Magazine ("Revista de Vinhos"), becoming the first in the history to receive twice the most coveted and prestigious distinction for Portuguese wine producers.*

*Alves de Sousa*



*Alves de Sousa*

*Portuguese producer of the year in 2006 and 1999*

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