



2010 Harvest Report

For Ramos Pinto, 2010 was remarked not only by the grapes quality and quantity, but also by the full utilization of the new wine cellar premises at Quinta dos Bons Ares and a better work organization at Bom Retiro given by the new presses. The Douro Valley had a great precipitation during 2009-2010 winter, remembering the index of frequent pluviometry during 1930-1960 decennium.

The bursting of the vineyard appeared early March with a small delay comparatively to the recent years. During Spring, there were mild temperatures, inferior to 2009 Spring, even with some morning frosts at Bons Ares, provoking also a small delay of the flowering. At the beginning of Summer, there has been a very strong heat during June/July, changing in the middle of August into normal temperatures till the end of the harvest. Some treatments for mildium or oïdium helped to an excellent sanitary condition of the grapes. The berries maturation was too slow, irregular and heterogeneous, causing long and complicated harvests to be organised.

The harvest began in the middle of August for the whites at Ervamoira, which presented much acidity and degrees next to 13°.

Then, it was the reds time that revealed themselves very fruity, with an alcoholic degree of 13.5° and with an enormous aromatic potential. The quantities at Bom Retiro, Urtiga and Ervamoira increased about 30% comparatively to the previous year. At Bons Ares, and on account of its localization at 600 meters of altitude, there have been some Spring frosts, provoking a diminution of 13%. Nevertheless, the whites became visible with a good aromatic expression and a good acidity, with a result of very elegant wines, while the reds showed more tannic. Finally, at Bom Retiro, the diversity of the relief and of the maturity changing of the different varieties obliged us to make harvests in two times, separated by a rainy interval half-September. Some overloaded stems exposed to the sun suffered a little from the dryness while the old vineyards gave great quality grapes.

At last, 2010 was a good productivity year, with a slow and complicated harvest for the heterogeneity of the maturation, but with a climate that suggests us to have grapes without sanitary problems. The wines seem to be fresh, elegant and aromatic, with a good expression, but not over-matured. We are satisfied with the qualitative evolution either for Port Wine or Douro Wine, thus being already a result from the investments made in our vineyards, cellar and oenological team.