TINDAL
WINE MERCHANTS

Dows Vintage Port Half Bottles

Douro Valley, Portugal



Product code	DW2624RB
Grapes	Port Blend Red
Country	PORTUGAL
ABV%	20
Case Size	12
Closure Style	Cork
Producer	Dow's / Symington Family Estates
Vintage	2024

Vegan Vegetarian

Producer

Dow's is one of the Douro's great historic Port houses, its modern identity forged when James R. Dow merged his company with Silva & Cosens in 1877, creating a shipper renowned for powerful, long-lived Vintage Ports. In 1912 the Symington family became custodians of Dow's vineyards and lodges, working alongside the Warre family until becoming sole owners in 1961. Across generations they have shaped the character of Dow's through Quinta do Bomfim, Quinta da Senhora da Ribeira and deep partnerships with Douro farmers. Today Dow's remains a benchmark for structured, ageworthy Port, celebrated for its top-scoring Vintage releases and its acclaimed aged Tawny collection, all crafted with the same commitment to stewardship and sustainability that defines the Symingtons' legacy in the Douro.

Tasting Notes

"Deep purple colour, so dark it's almost blue/black. This is a wine of great vigour with excellent fruit aromas of plums and cassis. In the mouth, typically Dow flavours of liquorice and spices, as well as great depth and structure. It presents amazing ripe fruit flavours giving it marvellous complexity, finishing with firm bold tannin and a typical peppery dryness."

Viticulture

Dow's Vintage Ports are drawn from the companies' finest vineyards; Quinta do Bomfim and Quinta de Senhora da Ribeira. Bomfim is situated in the centre of the best wine-producing area, known as the 'Cima Corgo', which offers an ideal balance between the relatively wet 'Baixo Corgo' to the west and the intense heat of the 'Douro Superior' to the east. Bomfim is south-facing ensuring ample exposure to the sun; its stony schist soil affords excellent drainage allowing water to reach the vines' deep roots; the annual rainfall is near perfect at 800mm and the altitude ranges from 120 to 340

metres above sea level. The climate is consistent, blessed with a favourable combination of temperate and Mediterranean influences, respectively from Portugal's Atlantic coast and the Spanish hinterland. The principal grape varieties planted are: Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional, Tinta Barroca, Tinta Roriz and old mixed vines. Two-thirds of the vineyard is now over 20 years old, whilst one third is between 30 to 40 years old. Senhora da Ribeira, on the other hand, is located 24km upriver from Quinta do Bomfim and is set in the remote, hot and dry Douro Superior and commands a magnificent north bank position. The quinta's high proportion of old vines (45% are over 25 years old) is of critical importance. The old vines are very low-yielding, producing on average less than 1Kg of grapes each. As with Bomfim, the consistency of the climate plays a key role, although the rainfall is only half of that experienced at Bomfim: 448mm is the 10 year average. This more extreme climate, hot dry summers and cold, equally dry winters results in wines with unique depth of colour and complexity.

Winemaking

"Records exist at Bomfim, unique in the Douro, dating back to the Vintage of 1891. In the 25 Vintage Ports 'Declared' by Dow's in the 20th Century, it is remarkable how often rainfall at the end of August or early September played a key role. After the long dry summer, the vines are in need of water. Rainfall, even if only a little, allows the grapes to swell, the skins to soften and the sugar readings to rise. In 2000 it rained at Bomfim on the 22nd and 24th August and again on the 11th September. This was ideal and had a major impact on the quality of the wines made at this harvest. The year had started in a rather difficult way; wet and damp weather in April and May had a detrimental effect on the flowering. The 'fruit set' was poor and yields were dramatically reduced as a result. However the weather in June and July was good and maturity progressed well. With the pre-harvest rain, there was every prospect of a very small but excellent crop. This is exactly what happened. "

Awards

"99 points: jamesuckling.com 04/01/2017.
95 points: Wine Enthusiast 01/10/2009.
94 points: Robert Parker 30/10/2002.
93 points: Wine Spectator 15/05/2003, jancisrobinson.com 01/07/2002.
90 points: The World of Fine Wine."