



Vinhos Barbeito: 20 Years Old Verdelho Ribeiro Real Lote 1

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The moment is closing in and I don't like it at all. For two months it has been my companion, this complex and ethereal Verdelho which totally reverses the belief what a Madeira ought to be. Now, when looking at the bottle I realize there are only enough for a further two memorable treats and the thinking starts; did I pour a glass to everyone I wanted to convince? Will I ever taste it again? And why didn't I buy one more out of the 1,236 bottles produced?

Not all wines makes you go wow if you have it at a tasting. Some wines just asks if you have a moment to sit down, relax, put on Nina Simone's 'I put a spell on you' and start realizing there's so much more to it than what is instantly sniffed and tasted. The Verdelho is a wine which awakens the curiosity in you, as it's not one of those easily dismantled. Some would say I just described Burgundy but the **20 Years Old Verdelho Ribeiro Real Lote 1** from **Vinhos Barbeito** also calls for Nina Simone.

The bouquet is delicate. New observations everytime I'm having it. Blending 20 to 25 years old Verdelho with 60 plus years old Tinta Negra isn't easy. The concentration of the latter can easily dominate the show. On the other hand the old Tinta Negra adds dimensions to the wine, especially if they come from the vineyards of Ribeiro Real. There's a herbaceous scent in the bouquet reminding me of heather and herbes Provencales, typical for the blue Tinta Negra grape. A touch of oriental spices can be detected when the temperature in the glass raises, an aroma which likely has developed from the long aging in cask when the component of sotolon develops. There's a hint of bitter almonds, paint and old wood as well. But what gives it that extra thing on the nose is the dusty road feeling. It's a bit sweeter than your average Verdelho but then again it's blended with 15 percent old Tinta Negra. So subtle on the palate. Lingering acidity and lots of impressions. Herbal honey, dried fruits, citrus fruits. But best of all is the lightweight impression it ends with. A wine with age and yet so refreshing.

The MAM opinion



Find the wine? Check the list of retailers on the top of the site or consult the website of Barbeito.

Read about the **Ribeiro Real Boal** [here](#).

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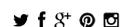
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