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CAPELA DA QUINTA DO VESUVIO VINTAGE. TOTAL PRODUCTION: 3000 BOTTLES

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THIS is a wine that has been handcrafted from vineyard to bottle in very restricted quantities. Along every step of the process we have looked to tap maximum quality potential. From this very limited production in 2007, only a few cases are available for each market and owing to its rarity, it is only available *en primeur* on very strict allocation. After several trial runs we decided that the best varietal combination would be Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Sousão. The latter variety, although one of the Douro's traditional grapes, has long been shunned by some in the region. At Vesuvio though, it has always been present, prized for its excellent colouring properties and for its good acidity, which contributes to the blend's freshness and balance.



THE VINHA DA ESCOLA (CENTRE-RIGHT), IN THE BOWL OF THE VALLEY, CLOSE TO THE HOUSE.

We chose the **VINHA DA ESCOLA** vineyard for the Nacional, an excellent location for this variety due to its concentration of heat, yet good soil water reserves (being at the bottom of the valley), contributing to a balanced ripening of a variety that is very sensitive to water stress.

The Sousão is from a parcel near the **VINHA DO POMBAL**, a vineyard now 10 years old. We were careful to bunch thin, just before veraison, so as to ensure that the ripening of this notoriously difficult variety was as balanced and complete as possible.



VESUVIO'S FINE CHAPEL (RIGHT), OR 'CAPELA', LENT THIS WINE ITS NAME.

The Touriga Franca is from the **VALE DA TEJA** vineyard, in a west-facing location, ideal for this late-ripening variety. This old vineyard (planted 1970s) has naturally small yields, due to its age, in what is an otherwise relatively prolific variety. Picking time was almost entirely defined on the basis of tasting the grapes in the vineyard, although the

usual analyses were carried out. We started picking the Nacional on the 18th September, filling one of the lagares that we had divided in half, specially to produce smaller lots.



This lagar produced a mere five pipes of a tremendously concentrated and ripe wine, which was finally fortified with specially selected lots of grape spirit.

The balance of the blend was produced from the Franca and Sousão, fermented in the same small lagar, picked on the penultimate day of the vintage. These two late - ripening varieties complement each other very well: the Sousão with its inky-purple colour and

tremendous fixed acidity marries with the lifted floral aromas and soft velvety tannins of the Franca. This was cold-fermented, after a 30% bleed, to very low baumé, enhancing the aromatics. This was possible due to the easy colour release of the Sousão and the impressive colour of the Nacional.

The overall blend is exceptionally structured, with complex layered aromas. The mouth is long, opulent and dry with very clean, balanced acidity in contrast to the Quinta do Vesuvio Vintage blend, which is relatively sweeter and softer.

Only 250 cases (3.000 bottles) have been produced. The final blend is: 40% Touriga Nacional, 30% Touriga Franca and 30% Sousão.

### NEAR PERFECT MARKS FOR THE CAPELA DO VESUVIO 2007 VINTAGE

Decanter Magazine, August 2009

19.5 Points out of 20

*"Just five pipes (2,750 litres) produced from Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Sousão grapes. Floral but closed on the nose, with underlying power and depth. Rich, still quite raw, needing time to come together. Very intense with a solid, tannic, dark chocolate core. Finishes with a flourish."*

Richard Mayson

Wine Spectator, July 2009

93-96 (100 point scale)

*"Beautiful aromas of violet and crushed raspberry, with some pepper, follow through to a full body, with a dense, rich palate, yet balanced and very refined. Medium sweet. Wonderfully polished. Powerful and long. This is a new tiny production, with an excellent selection from three of the best vineyard sites at Vesuvio. Foot-trodden."* James Suckling



THE IMPOSING STAIRCASE LEADING TO THE COURTYARD AT VESUVIO

