

ARINTO  
DOC DOURO WHITE  
2021



Unexpected wines born from our natural curiosity. Sourced from special parcels and little-known vineyards.

THE WINE

Ilustres Desconhecidos is a collection of singular and expressive wines brought to life by the creativity and skill of our winemakers. This wine comes from the vineyard of Tapadinha, in the Rio Torto Valley (in the Cima Corgo subregion of the Douro). This parcel has over a dozen white grape varieties planted at 580 m, where we have been assessing their performance and investigating the best blends. This experimental vineyard is the ideal launchpad for our new collection of wines that tell hitherto unknown stories about our terroir.

VINTAGE OVERVIEW

Following a succession of very hot and dry years in the Douro, the 2021 growth cycle and harvest were some of the coolest in recent years. While large areas of Europe experienced extreme heat (with July being the hottest ever recorded in the continent), the Douro experienced an unusually cool summer with none of the heat waves that have become common in the region. Moderate conditions in 2021 encouraged slower, gradual maturations with balanced ripening, while the harvest itself was defined by three key periods of rain impacting our picking schedule. The remarkably cool nights contributed to excellent acidity and very good colour in the wines. The 2021 harvest was drawn out over six weeks, contrastingly sharply with that of 2020, which lasted less than a month.

WINEMAKING

Smooth de-stemming followed by crushing and static clarification of the must. After these steps, the wine ferments in a 400 L Flextank, a reservoir made of porous material that allows fermentation and the subsequent ageing, with oxygen exchanges but no interference in aromas. This choice reflects the approach of revealing what each of these grape varieties can offer in terms of organoleptic features, without any exogenous interference. Sulphurous additions and contact with oxygen were minimized, resulting in a tendentially reductive winemaking. The result is the purest sensory profile that we can obtain.

WINEMAKERS

Charles Symington and Pedro Correia, assisted by the Symington DOC Douro winemaking team.

PROVENANCE & GRAPE VARIETIES

Produced from grapes grown at the vineyard of Tapadinha (Rio Torto Valley).  
100% Arinto

AGEING & BOTTLING

The wine aged *sur lies* in the Flextank for a few months following fermentation. Bottling occurred during the summer of 2022 (the year after the harvest). The wine was then aged in bottle until it was released in 2023.

STORAGE & SERVING

Ready for immediate enjoyment. Serve between 2023 and 2025, ideally between 10-12 °C and with rich fish dishes, sushi or similar.

TASTING NOTE

Crisp citrous elements, lemon peel and green apples with a fresh herbal quality. Bright and intense on the palate with lively, tense acidity – an Arinto hallmark. Mineral and saline elements go hand in hand with orange zest and some subtle white pepper spice. Begs to be served with an oyster platter and fresh seafood generally.

WINE SPECIFICATIONS

Alcohol: 13.5% vol.  
Volatile acidity: 0.3 g/L (acetic acid)  
Total acidity: 6.5 g/L (tartaric acid)  
pH: 3.10  
Total sugars (glu+fru): < 0.7 g/L  
Allergy advice: Contains sulphites  
Compatible with vegetarian and vegan diets