

Sandeman,
40-Year-Old Tawny Port In Gift Box NV
Douro, Portugal



PRODUCER

There are few more iconic images in the world of wine than the 'Don', the logo created for the Sandeman family in 1928 by George Massiot Brown. The cape was modelled on the attire worn by university students in Porto, while the wide-brimmed hat was a nod to the family's presence in Jerez. Today, the wines are good enough to be every bit as famous as the image of the Don. Since Sogrape bought Sandeman in 2002, the major improvements and investment that have taken place in the vineyards and the winemaking has seen the wines rise to the top of the tree in Port.

VINEYARDS

Grapes destined for the Aged Tawny Ports need to have great intensity of flavour in order to stand up to many years of ageing in barrel. The grapes which make it into the Sandeman 40-Year-Old Tawny are sourced from prime vineyard sites in the Cima Corgo sub-region of the Douro, including Sandeman's spectacular Quinta do Seixo estate. A large proportion of fruit from old vines is used in the blend as these produce lower yields of grapes with great concentration of flavour. Another factor contributing to lower yields is the soil of the Douro Valley: schist. Schist is a dense, slate-like metamorphic rock that fractures vertically, allowing the vine roots to dig deep to access water and nutrients to sustain them through the hot Douro summers. The vines are planted on terraces supported by dry stone walls on the steep hillsides sloping down to the Douro river. Given the steep gradients and the inaccessibility for machinery, vineyard operations and harvesting are carried out by hand.

VINIFICATION

Upon arrival at the winery, the handpicked grapes were destemmed and gently crushed. Fermentation took place in granite lagares with vigorous treading to extract optimum levels of colour, flavour and tannin before fortification. The ferment was closely monitored to determine the ideal moment to halt the fermentation by fortifying with grape spirit, leaving some of the grapes' natural sugars. The wines remained in the Douro until the spring following the harvest when they were transported downstream to the historic Sandeman cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia for decades of oxidative ageing in used oak barrels. The 40-Year-Old Tawny is a carefully crafted blend of wines between 35 to 50 years of age.

TASTING NOTES

Beautiful pale tawny in colour. The 40-Year-Old Tawny is exceptionally pronounced and complex in aroma profile. Intense aromas of dried fruits, roasted nuts, caramel and spice burst out of the glass. Velvety smooth on the palate, with a bright acidity keeping the decadent flavours on the straight and narrow and all culminating in a deliciously lingering finish.

AWARDS

International Wine Challenge 2022, Tawny Port Trophy
Decanter World Wine Awards 2022, Platinum
Decanter World Wine Awards 2021, Platinum

Grape Varieties

Tinta Amarela
Tinta Roriz
Tinta Barroca
Tinto Cão
Touriga Franca

Winemaker	Luís Sottomayor
Closure	Vinolok
ABV	20%
Residual Sugar	125g/L
Acidity	5.9g/L
Wine pH	3.45
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Sustainable