

Azamor,

Vinho Regional Alentejano Tinto 2016

Alentejo, Portugal



PRODUCER

The family-owned Azamor estate was purchased by Alison and Joaquim Luiz-Gomes in 1998. Known as the "bread basket" of Portugal, the Alentejo has staked a claim as one of the country's most important red wine regions. It is renowned for its consistency of good quality, excellent value, fruit-driven wines. Unlike many producers in the region, Azamor's vineyards are planted on low vigour hillside sites, which gives their wines more depth of flavour. Alison uses a mixture of local varieties like Touriga Nacional, Trincadeira and Alicante Bouschet, as well as international ones such as Petit Verdot, Syrah and Merlot.

VINEYARDS

The Azamor vineyards are unique. The 27 hectares of vineyards, situated at 350 metres above sea level, look out over a vast landscape including a breathtaking view of Spain. They are the most densely planted in the region of Alentejo; the north-south rows are planted 2.2 metres by 0.9 metres. The vines grow on clay soils with bedrock of schist, one to two metres deep.

VINTAGE

The 2016 growing season was very difficult with a cool and wet spring. Temperatures only began to increase in June and quickly conditions went in the other direction, with six weeks of temperatures above 40°C starting in July. This led to a 30% decrease in yields.

VINIFICATION

All grape varieties were fermented in separate stainless steel tanks for up to ten days at temperatures between 22-24°C. Fruit underwent a period of cold maceration prior to fermentation to help extract tannins and aromatics. Post-fermentation, the wine was then pressed off the skins before undergoing malolactic fermentation. It was aged for seven months in three and four-year-old French and American oak barrels. It was then blended before ageing a further seven months prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Beautifully aromatic with a lush, deep red fruit perfume. On the palate, the wine is well rounded with sumptuous soft fruit flavours. The finish is long, with ripe tannins.

AWARDS

Sommelier Wine Awards 2020, Gold

Grape Varieties	20% Syrah
	18% Alicante Bouschet
	17% Merlot
	17% Touriga Franca
	12% Touriga Nacional
	10% Trincadeira/Tinta Amarela
	6% Petit Verdot

Winemaker	Mario Andrade and Alison Luiz Gomes
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	14%
Residual Sugar	5g/L
Acidity	5.2g/L
Wine pH	3.77
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan