# Sandeman.

# Unfiltered Late Bottled Vintage Port 2019 Douro, Portugal





Grape Varieties	48% Touriga Franca 32% Touriga Nacional 16% Tinta Roriz 4% Tinto Cão
Winemaker	Luís Sottomayor
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	20%
Residual Sugar	100g/L
Acidity	4.8g/L
Wine pH	3.7
Bottle Sizes	75cl

#### **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**

The grapes that make up the LBV blend are sourced from prime sites in the Cima Corgo sub-region of the Douro including Quinta do Seixo and Quinta do Vau. The soil in the Douro Valley is schist - a 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.

## **VINTAGE**

Luís Sottomayor describes the 2019 vintage as "a very good year, with freshness and great balance." Winter and spring were cooler and drier than normal, but April showers replenished water reserves in the soil and helped sustain the vines through the dry summer that followed. Summer temperatures were milder than average with cool nights which favoured a slow and steady ripening of the grapes, allowing them to accumulate great intensity of flavour while retaining a refreshing acidity.

### **VINIFICATION**

Upon arrival at the Quinta do Seixo winery, the grapes were destemmed and gently crushed. Fermentation took place in granite lagares with vigorous treading to extract the ideal levels of colour, flavour and tannin from the grape skins. 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 ageing in oak casks for around four years. The wines were regularly tasted and analysed during this time and the final blend was assembled from a selection of the best casks. The LBV is bottled unfiltered, in order to preserve its great intensity of flavour.

#### **TASTING NOTES**

Deep ruby in colour, this wine boasts intense and complex aromas of ripe and juicy blackberries, black cherries, strawberries and plums, married with spicy notes and subtle hints of balsamic. On the palate, firm but ripe tannins and a lively acidity carry the concentrated flavours onto a complex and lingering finish.