

Grape Varieties

Many of the varieties produced in the Vinho Verde Region

are considered indigenous due to their long history in this region and the fact that they have emerged only in the Iberian Northwest. Perhaps these facts translate to a greater intensity in the specificity of Vinho Verde.

Main white varieties:

Alvarinho

A variety cultivated particularly in the subregion of Monção and Melgaço, but given its quality, it has been carried to other parts of the region and the country. The wine is characterized by an intense straw color, with citrus reflections, an intense, distinctive and complex aroma, ranging from quince, peach, banana, lemon, passion fruit and lychee, to orange and violet blossoms, hazelnut and walnut, and honey, with a complex, soft, round, smooth, full-bodied and persistent flavor.



Arinto

Monção and Melgaço). Known as Arinto de Bucelas, it reaches its highest level of quality in inland areas of the region. The wines are citrus and straw-colored, and feature a rich aroma of fruity citrus, pome fruit (ripe pear and apple) and flowers (lantana). The taste is fresh, harmonious and persistent.



Avesso

A variety cultivated particularly in the subregion Baiao, but given its quality, has been cultivated in neighboring subregions such as Amarante, Paiva and Sousa. Produces wines of intense straw color with greenish reflections, its aroma is a mix between fruity (orange and peach), almond-like (dried fruit) and floral, with a dominant, delicate, subtle and complex fruity character. The taste is fruity with slight acidity, fresh, harmonious, full-bodied and persistent. These potential aromas and flavors reveal themselves only a few months after vinification.



Azal

Grape variety grown in inland areas where it matures well and reaches its highest level of quality when planted in dry and well-exposed areas, such as the subregions of Amarante, Basto, Baião and Sousa. Produces pale wines with a light citrine color, with a fruity aroma (lemon and green apple) that is not overly intense or complex; fine, pleasant, fresh and citrusy, with a fruity flavor, slight acidity, with freshness and youth, in exceptional years may prove to be full-bodied and harmonious.



Grape variety grown in almost every region and best suited to coastal areas, not recommended only in the innermost subregions such as Amarante, Basto and Baião. Ancient and of high-quality, produces wines of citrus color, a fine, elegant aroma, ranging from fruity citrus (lemon) to floral (freesia and rose) and molasses (bouquet), with a fruity flavor with slight acidity, fresh, harmonious, full-bodied and persistent.



Trajadura

Grape grown throughout the region (not recommended in the subregion Baiao), good quality, produces wines of intense golden straw color, with an intense aroma of mature fruit tree (apple, pear and peach), and macerated, soft, warm, round mouthfeel, and with a tendency, under certain conditions, towards low acidity.



Main grape varieties:

Espadeiro

Variety with some expansion in the region, but not recommended for subregions Baiao, Monção and Melgaço, and Paiva. Produces ruby colored wines with a fresh, grapey aroma and flavor. Traditionally vinified in "open spout" at different locations in the region for production of rosé wine.



Padeiro

subregion of Basto, and now also recommended in the subregions of Ave and Cávado. Produces wines ranging in color from ruby to garnet, with grapey, harmonious and tasty aromas and flavors.



Vinhão

A variety with major expansion, grown throughout the region for its quality and because it is the only red variety in the region. Produces wines of intense garnet red color, with a vinous aroma, evidenced in the berry aromas (blackberry and raspberry), with an equally vinous, full-bodied and slightly astringent taste.



