

2012 Joao Nicolau de Almeida & Filhos • Quinta do Monte Xisto

2012 ▾



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Rating

93


Release Price

\$65

Drink Date

2019 - 2038

Reviewed by

 [Mark Squires](#)

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Source

[232. The Wine Advocate](#)

The 2012 Quinta do Monte Xisto is a blend of 60% Touriga Nacional with 35% Touriga Franca and a dollop of Sousão, aged for 18 months in a 60/40 mixture of used and new oak (80% French, 20% Austrian). This is a very different wine than the massive 2011—which makes sense considering that the vintage is very different. They are both creatures of their vintages and appropriately so. This is similar in tannins to some extent. After that, the resemblance stops, with this being more like Dão, much crisper and fresher but nowhere near as concentrated as the 2011. The crisp edge lifts the fruit nicely. It might have half the concentration of the 2011, but its silky sexiness makes it rather irresistible and far more lively. Granting that it sometimes seems to lack a mid-palate, there were times when I preferred this to the 2011. This will not, I suspect, evolve as well as the 2011, but it is beautifully structured. It's not yet at peak and it will still age well. Here, though, as we get 25 to 30 years out, the question will be whether the mid-palate keeps up with the structure. In the meanwhile, this is the sleeper of the group—the one that doesn't seem immediately impressive but really grows on you. It might just wind up being the one you most want to drink at the table. If it ages well, it will be entitled to an uptick.