

[« Back to Wines Reviews Top](#)

Critic's Pick

92

[Quinta do Monte Xisto 2013 Douro](#)

Price: \$80

Grape Varietal: [Red Blend](#)

Region/Appellation: [Douro, Portugal](#)

Imported by [MundoVino/The Winebow Group, NY](#)

[📦 Where to Buy](#)



This is the latest project from the Nicolau de Almeida family: João, recently retired CEO and oenologist at Ramos Pinto, along with his sons Mateus and João. They began assembling their 100 acres on a ridge above the Douro in 1993, taking 15 years to complete 20 land deals; they started planting the vines, cascading down from either side of the ridge, in 2003. They have farmed the site with biodynamic practices since the beginning, and it shows in the riot of flowers that thrive between the vines in spring. They ferment the wine to dryness in granite lagars without any additions, then age it in 600-liter barrels. The wine is purple-fruited and packed with the floral notes of Douro fruit when first poured. The structure grows firmer, the tannins more delicate as it opens with air, peppery and clean, with a schisty edge to the velvet nap of the texture. It has a vibrant energy that captures the fresh side of the Douro Superior.

review by [Joshua Greene](#)

📷 [wineandspirits](#) 🐦 [wineandspirits](#)

Featured in our August 2016 monthly newsletter, *Wines of the Month*. [Click here to sign up.](#)