



GUARDA RIOS RED BLEND 2020/\$10.99



DESCRIPTION

This wine is produced by Ravasqueira, a family-owned wine estate in Portugal's Alentejo region, producing wines of a unique identity and quality. The estate encompasses 250 acres of vines in 29 different plots. There are 15 different grape varieties distributed over the 29 plots, planted in 8 distinct types of soil, which allow them to produce the region's best nectars. Alentejo offers a varied topography and an array of soil types and microclimates. The grapes from the different vineyard blocks each bring their own unique character.

Located in the village of Arraiolos, in the Alentejo region, Ravasqueira has maintained a three-generation link to the José de Mello family since 1943.

The vast area of typical Alentejo landscape and the unique geological and climatic conditions found here led José de Mello to believe that Monte da Ravasqueira had everything to produce high-quality wines.

Borba, Évora, Redondo, and Reguengos, four of the eight sub-regions in which the Alentejo is divided, personify the Alentejo's identity: land of balance and harmony, with the right proportion of fruit and freshness, and energy and softness. It is from within this range that the region's best wines come from, in which Monte da Ravasqueira proudly lies in.

The dream began to take shape in 1998 when, after a series of geological studies to choose the best grape varieties and the best spots, an old orchard gives rise to the first vineyards. Surgical planting, advised by the best consultants from the universities of Évora, Trás-os-Montes, and Bordeaux. As nothing is left to chance, the first harvest takes place in 2001, for

private consumption only, but everything led them to believe that this would be the first of many to come.

Today, the team's know-how produces wines from all the most known wine regions in Portugal, from the Douro to the Alentejo.

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The quality of a wine begins with the quality of its grapes and these depend on the terroir they inhabit. To a large extent, the terroir depends on the region its in and the conditions it offers. The Alentejo is proof that, sometimes, a single region can spring a surprise and present vastly different realities and characteristics that allow for the production of unique, distinct and differentiated wines.

In 2012, at the time of grape maturation, an aerial photograph of the vineyard was taken, starting a new phase of intense work of Precision Viticulture with the objective of zoning each block of vineyard in order to maximize potential. This new terroir concept aims to identify and locate all variability found in the Monte da Ravasqueira vineyard.

This wine is a blend of 40% Aragonez, 25% Syrah, 25% Trincadeira, and 10% Alicante Bouchet grapes. Separate grape lots are fermented in temperature controlled tanks and the wine is aged for 8 months in oak barrels.

The Alentejo region red wines are produced in a similar manner to Spain's reds since the region is along the Portuguese-Spanish border.

This region produces full-bodied, age-worthy red blends. The blends bring out a deep, savory flavour profile with spice, tobacco, and leather notes. If you're a fan of Malbec or Cabernet Sauvignon, the Alentejo wine will impress you.

Tasting Notes

Nose:

Aromas of ripe dark fruits, olive, wild herbs, and spice.

Palate:

Flavors of blackberry, olive, wild bergamot, dark chocolate, and vanilla are vibrant and generous on the palate.

Pairing:

Some popular Portuguese red wine pairing suggestions include savory meat dishes, stews, roasts, and desserts like cookies and sour cherry pie.

Winery Website: [Homepage | Ravasqueira](#)

Fun Facts

Ripe vine fruits, blackberry, chocolate and vanilla on the nose followed by juicy acidity in the mouth with ripe, supple tannins and notes of black olive, tobacco and garrigue on the palate.

-Decanter 97 Points

Alentejo D.O.C., Portugal

