



ORGANIC WINES

## CASA de MOURAZ – DÃO WINES

CASA de MOURAZ, located in Mouraz, area of Tondela, was the first to practice organic farming in the region of Dão, one of the most important and prestigious wine areas in Portugal. In this plain old land of steep slopes and small valleys where sinuous streams run, located between the mountain ranges of Estrela and Caramulo, the Cister monks built the monastery of S. Pedro de Mouraz (12th century), giving rise to the farming of vineyards and wine in this region.

CASA de MOURAZ consists of several vineyards, over thirty years old, some of which already mentioned as wine producers in 16<sup>th</sup> century documents. The most important varieties are Touriga-Nacional, Tinta-Roriz, Alfrocheiro, Jaen and Água-Santa for the red wines and Malvasia-Fina, Bical, Cerceal-Branco and Alvarinho for the white ones.

Carrying on a family tradition, the year 2000 marked the birth of the CASA de MOURAZ trademark, the first wine produced in the region of Dão, according to the rules of organic farming. The purpose of this pioneer and innovative project of ecological farm wine production is to create authentic and customized wines that express all the richness of its *terroir* and respect the cycles of nature. The farm, with 13 hectares, is spread through ten parcels with different soils, altitudes and surroundings. Old and new planted vineyards coexist with the pine-, oak-, chestnut- and cork-trees forest. In the soils, granite and clays are predominant and the altitudes range from 140 to 400 metres. Sunny sides prevail.

In the vineyard, vinifications are made by vineyards and not by vine varieties, with the purpose of finding the essence of each *terroir*. This diversity is reflected upon personality, complexity and unique character of the CASA de MOURAZ wines. Thus, with our wines, we give privilege to

the use of a smooth technology that applies to the pneumatic compress, controlled cold and the stainless steel for the whites and traditional press techniques for the reds.

Several awards are confirming the serious work we do in CASA de MOURAZ and stimulate us to do better:

- **Trophée Citadelles 2008 / Les Citadelles du Vin**, Bordeaux, France – FLOR de MOURAZ Reserva, red wine Dão DOC 2005
- **Silver Medal / Decanter World Wine Awards 2008**, England – CASA de MOURAZ, white wine Dão DOC 2006
- **Silver Medal / First Wine Competition Millésime Bio 2008**, France – CASA de MOURAZ, white wine Dão DOC 2006
- **Commended Award / International Wine Challenge 2007**, England - CASA de MOURAZ, red wine, Dão DOC 2004;
- **Commended Award / Decanter World Wine Awards 2007**, England – CASA de MOURAZ, red wine, Private Selection, Dão DOC 2005;
- **Best Buy 2007 / Revista de Vinhos (Wine Magazine), Portugal** (Feb. 2007) - CASA de MOURAZ, white wine, Dão DOC 2005 (16/20);
- **Best Buy / Revista de Vinhos, Portugal** (Feb. 2007) - CASA de MOURAZ, red wine, Dão DOC 2004 (16/20);
- **Recommendation wine/ Bronze Medal / International Organic Wine Award of Biofach 2007, Germany** – CASA de MOURAZ, red wine, Private Selection, Dão DOC, 2004;
- **Commended Award / Decanter World Wine Awards 2004, England** - CASA de MOURAZ, white Wine, Dão DOC, 2003;
- **Best Buy 2004 / Revista de Vinhos (Wine Magazine), Portugal** - CASA de MOURAZ, white Wine, Dão DOC, 2003 and 2001 (16/20);
- **Best Buy 2003 / Revista de Vinhos (Wine Magazine), Portugal** - CASA de MOURAZ, white Wine, Dão DOC, 2000 (16.5/20);
- **Bronze Medal / Amphore Competition 2002, France** - CASA de MOURAZ, red Wine, Dão DOC, 2000.

## **ORGANIC FARMING**

Organic farming is an agricultural production method characterized by the fact that it does not use synthesis chemical products, seeking not only to obtain healthy and highly nutritional food but also to improve the fertility of soils and eliminate any sort of agricultural pollution. So, this is the

agricultural model that most preserves ecosystems and environment in general.

All the vineyards that are part of CASA de MOURAZ are farmed since the early '90s, ecologically, with no herbicides or synthesis agrochemicals. The soil fertilizations are based on plant seedings and organic fertilizers and the treatments are based on the use of copper, sulphur, sea algae, clays, herbal teas and other natural products. Since the end of 2006 we are working with biodynamic practices (preparations). Also prunings and other interventions in the vineyards are made considering the biodynamic calendar. These practices enable the appearing of a spontaneous, rich and diversified flora such as clover, vetch; serradella, violets, marigolds and wild strawberries.

The certification is ECOCERT PORTUGAL since 1997.