

João Portugal Ramos

Marquês de Borba



WINE:	Marquês de Borba
TYPE:	Red Wine
DENOMINATION:	Alentejo DOC
VINTAGE:	2006
GRAPE VARIETY:	Trincadeira, Aragones
COUNTRY:	Portugal

The Estate: João Portugal Ramos may well be Portugal's most renowned enologist on the international stage. Since 1980, Portugal Ramos has worked as a consultant to over a dozen other wineries, including the prestigious Rothschild-owned Quinta do Carmo, but he is now concentrating exclusively on making his own wines. Located near the gleaming white marble buildings of Estremoz, a hill town in the Alentejo district of Borba, his state of the art winery is set amidst its own 140 acres of rolling vineyards, which were originally planted in 1990. Constructed from 1997 to 2001, the winery is a marvel of tradition as well as innovation, with a sophisticated laboratory and modern fermentation equipment, but also stone lagars for crushing grapes underfoot. The cellars hold 750 barriques, including French, Portuguese, American and Slovenian cooperage, in naturally cool temperatures. The estate vines, primarily Trincadeira and Aragones, are planted on light clay schist soils.



Vinification: The grapes for this wine are handpicked, de-stemmed and crushed, after which the juice undergoes a long maceration on the skins at cool temperatures in order to extract color and flavor, but minimal tannins. It is aged for 5 months in barrels.

Press:

Wine Enthusiast, (2006 Vintage) **87 Points:** Red fruits and soft tannins with wood hints give this wine a fresh, immediate appeal. The fruit structure is slightly hot and leathery, but this is balanced with ripeness and very soft acidity. — R.V. (12/15/2007)

Food & Wine 2008 Wine Guide, (2005 Vintage) **TWO STARS****

International Wine Cellar, March 2006 (2004 vintage), 88 Points: *"Primal, peppery cassis and blackberry aromas suggest carbonic maceration. Youthful, grapey and lush...Easy-drinking pure wine.."*

Wine Spectator, Nov 15, 2004 (2003 vintage), 86 Points: *Reminiscent of a Beaujolais, with crushed red fruit flavors, especially red cherry and plum. Creamy finish filled with spice and mineral notes.*

Tasting Notes: Perfumed with flowery strawberry blossom aromas, this medium colored red wine has a soft, mild, fruity round texture, with a bit of an herbal edge to the flavors. Medium in body and gentle on the palate, the fruit is pure and bright, the tannins low, and the finish satisfying.



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