

João Portugal Ramos

Marquês de Borba Reserva



WINE:	Marquês de Borba Reserva
TYPE:	Red Wine
DENOMINATION:	Alentejo DOC
VINTAGE:	2004
GRAPE VARIETY:	Trincadeira, Aragones, Castelão, Cabernet, Alicante Bouschet
COUNTRY:	Portugal

The Estate: João Portugal Ramos is one of Portugal's most internationally-renowned enologists. His state-of-the-art winery is set amidst 140 acres of rolling vineyards near Estremoz, a hill town in the Alentejo district of Borba. The vines were originally planted in 1990 and the winery, completed in 2001, 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.

Vinification: Fermentation in stainless steel with frequent pump-overs, post-fermentation maceration on the skins, and aging in French oak for 12 months.

Press: Wine Enthusiast, (2004 Vintage) **90 Points:** A big, chewy wine, traditional in style, its dark fruits laden with tannins. It is a food wine, with dense plums, berries and ripe fruit wrapped around a core of dryness. The final taste is dry, leavened with some juiciness. 11/08

eRobertParker.com, (2004 vintage) **89 Points.** 12/08

The Wine Advocate, Robert M Parker, Jr., (2003 Vintage), **90 Points.**

The Wine Advocate, Robert M Parker, Jr., (1999 vintage), **90 points:** "This outstanding effort is full-bodied and rich, with copious amounts of cassis fruit, blackberries, truffles, minerals and smoke. Impressively endowed, with sweeter tannin, lower acidity, and a more multi-layered texture than the 1997, it should drink well during its first 15 years." 8/00

Wine & Spirits, (1999 vintage), **93 points, "100 Best Wines of 2001"** : With luscious, fresh-berry richness, a different style from the traditionally leaner Alentejo reds, it's a modern Portuguese collectible, a new take on the Alentejo. And at \$45, it blows away a lot of wines on the international market priced significantly higher. 10/01

Decanter, (1999 vintage), **4 stars "Highly Recommended"**: Elegant, mixed berry spiciness on the nose. Soft and intense on the palate. 10/01

Tasting Notes: Deep ruby in color, this raspberry-scented wine has a concentrated jammy aroma, and rich, cocoa-accented fruit. The maximum-impact flavors are dense and smoky, while the tannins are fine-grained. A big wine, with brilliant earthy fruit that will continue to develop depth in the cellar.

