



Pontual

Reserva

WINE:	Pontual Reserva
TYPE:	Red Wine
DENOMINATION:	VR Alentejano
VINTAGE:	2004
GRAPE VARIETY:	Alicante Bouschet (80%), Syrah (10%), Touriga Nacional (10%)
COUNTRY:	Portugal

The Estate: Located in Alandroal in the Alentejo region of Portugal, Pontual is produced by PLC – Companhia de Vinhos do Alandroal. The Company, founded in 2000, is the collaboration of two vineyard owners and a winemaker with a shared vision of producing wines of exceptional quality in the Alentejo region.



The winery has over 50 hectares of vineyards where wine has been produced since Roman times. The front label of “Pontual” is inspired by the Roman influence in the region. Its “crossword” type letter casing is suggestive of the Roman headstones that are found on ancient monuments in the region. Only 15 kilometers from the border of Spain and near the Guadiana River, the soil is schistous and the climate is hot and dry in the summer months with very little precipitation, an ideal environment for growing grapes.

The Wine: The hot and dry Alentejo region yields mature, ripe fruit, and the dry schistous soil leads to concentration and richness. Winemaker Paolo Fiuza Nigra comes from a family of winemakers. Prior to the formation of PLC he had been producing wines in cooperation with Peter Bright, a well-respected Australian winemaker in Portugal.

Vinification: Maceration takes place over 3 days and there is a total separation of solid matter. The grapes are fermented for 7 to 10 days at a temperature of 25° Celsius. The wine is then aged for 12 months in French and American oak barrels.

Press: Wine Enthusiast Magazine, (2004 Vintage), **90 points:** It's mainly (80%) Alicante Bouschet with 10% each Syrah and Touriga Nacional, but this wine bears something of a resemblance to Port. Dark chocolate and Blueberry notes show up on the nose, although there are also bright raspberry and vanilla flourishes. Long and a bit peppery on the finish, this is a winter-weight red to have alongside braised meats. November 2006.

World Wine Competition – Brussels 2006: Gold Medal (2004 vintage).

Food & Wine 2008 Wine Guide, (2004 Vintage) THREE STARS★★★

Tasting Notes: Intense and powerful, hints of cassis and black plum stand out while blending with the wood. Soft, well structured and rich. Tannins always present but well rounded.