

COLEÇÃO *Domingos Soares Franco* PRIVADA

GRAND NOIR

2015



VINHO REGIONAL ALENTEJANO

Domingos Soares Franco Private Collection assembles wines that show his creative and innovator spirit, originated in his wine culture passion.

HISTORY

Domingos Soares Franco is the younger brother in the sixth generation of the family that has run José Maria da Fonseca since its foundation in 1834. As both Vice-President and senior winemaker of the company Domingos has become a prominent figure in the field of Portuguese winegrowing. This status is not derived solely from his connection to this prestigious Vila Nogueira de Azeitão company. It is also from the fact that Domingos was the first Portuguese to graduate in Fermentation Sciences from the University of California in Davis, USA. This achievement is important in the influence it has had on his view of vines and wines: although intending to maintain the distinctive features of Portuguese wines he is constantly looking to the future, seeking innovation wherever possible. Although all José Maria da Fonseca's wines are of his making, some are particularly special to him. Labelled "Domingos Soares Franco Private Collection", these are all varietal wines.

José Maria da Fonseca is the oldest and one of the most prestigious wineries in Portugal, producing wines, Port and Setubal Moscatel. The Soares Franco family owns José Maria da Fonseca and has been involved in the wine business for almost 200 years. With over 650 hectares of land under vine in our main wine regions: Douro, Alentejo and Terras do Sado, José Maria Fonseca also boasts Portugal's largest winery, with capacity to produce 6.5 million litres of wine in a totally computerised operation.

THE WINEMAKER

Domingos Soares Franco, winemaker and vice-president, is the youngest of the two representatives of the sixth generation of the family that manages José Maria da Fonseca. He studied in Davis, California, and started working at José Maria da Fonseca in the 1980s. Since then, he has introduced several changes into the wines produced by this company, becoming one of the most innovative new-generation winemakers in Portugal. As a winemaker, his first major influence was undoubtedly that of his father Fernando Soares Franco. His uncle, António Porto Soares Franco, a man of great vision, also influences him tremendously, among other important achievements, he deserves to be recognized as the creator of Lancers, one of the best known Portuguese wines around the world and José Maria da Fonseca's first international "best seller".

VINTAGE INFORMATION

Region: Alentejo

Grape varieties: Grand Noir (100%)

Vineyard Area: 3 ha

Type of soil: Sandy soil

Wine production: 2.700 litres

Tasting notes:

Colour: Deep red with some brownish tints
Aroma: Black chocolate, blackberries, violets, figs, very complex, no oak
Palate: Lots of fruit, licorish but dry, very balanced, good acidity, good tannins
Finish: Long

Vinification: The grapes were fermented in stainless steel "lagares" at a temperature of 28°C for 10 days, and bottled after 8 months without being filtered or cold stabilized. No oak used.

Date of bottling: March 2017

Analyses:

Alcohol - 13.5 %
Total Acidity - 5.55 gr/l as tartaric acid
pH - 3.60

Serving suggestions: Should be served with game and cheese at a temperature of 14°C.

Storage: The bottles should be laid down at a temperature of 12°C and 60% humidity.

Shelf life: 10 years after bottling

JOSÉ MARIA  DA FONSECA