



## Quinta de Vargellas Vinha Velha 2007 Vintage

Taylor Fladgate is pleased to announce that it will be bottling a very small amount of Quinta de Vargellas Vinha Velha 2007.

Commenting on the release, Taylor Fladgate's Managing Director Adrian Bridge noted: "2007 was a remarkable year for the old vines at Vargellas. Generally these provide the lowest yields, typically less than half the average for the estate. However the 2007 harvest followed four dry years from which the water table had not fully recovered. As a result the old vines, with their extensive root system, were more productive than many of the younger vineyards."

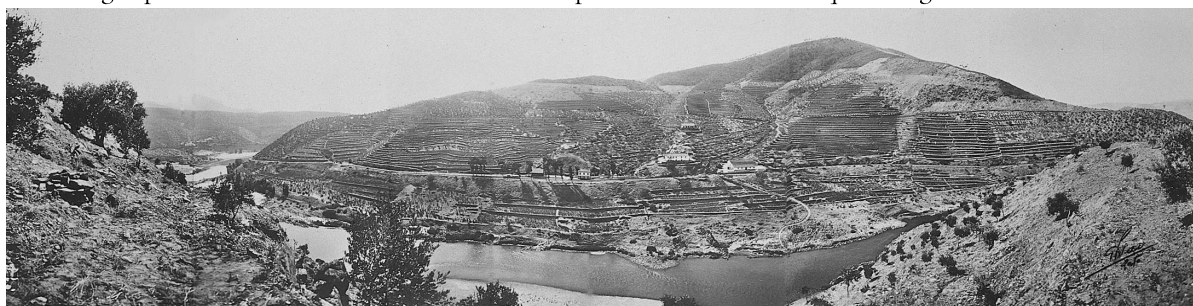
Quinta de Vargellas Vinha Velha, made from grapes taken from the very oldest vines on the estate, is one of the rarest and most collectible of all vintage ports. Only four Vinha Velha vintage ports have been released to date and the 2007 will be the fifth. The terraced plots containing the oldest vines on the property account for over 10% of the estate's total production. The Vargellas Vinha Velha vintage port represents a only a very limited selection of the production of these old vines and seldom accounts for more than about 1% of the total production of the property.

As in the past, by far the largest part of the production of the old vineyards is incorporated into the traditional Quinta de Vargellas single-quinta vintage port or the declared Taylor Fladgate vintage, or into other wines when no vintage port is made.

The Vargellas Vinha Velha vintage is selected from five individual plots of old vineyard: Polverinho, Renova do Depósito, Renova do Armazém, Gricha and Vinha Grande. The age of the old vines on these plots varies from around 80 to 120 years. Each plot, which is harvested individually, produces wine with its own distinct character and contains a wide variety of grape varieties in which no one variety predominates. The exception is the Polverinho vineyard, which was the site of the first single-variety batch planting experiments in 1927 by Taylor Fladgate partner Dick Yeatman, the pioneering work which underpins the firm's thorough understanding of the classic Douro grape varieties.

Wine maker David Guimaraens noted: "The remarkable characteristic of the Vinha Velha vintage ports is their multi-dimensional complexity and their distinctive and subtle personality. This derives from the rich diversity of grape varieties planted on these old terraces, many of which are traditional varieties not widely used today. The Vinha Velha vintage ports will never fall prey to the uniformity or lack of sophistication of wines made from over-selective reliance on a few classic varieties as is so often the case." He added: "2007 was a year in which all varieties performed well and in which the relatively cool ripening season encouraged the expression of varietal character. As a result the 2007 Vinha Velha is beautifully balanced and complete."

A small amount of Vargellas Vinha Velha 2007 will be released in the Autumn. As usual it will be shipped in cases of 3 bottles. Given that only a very small amount will be bottled, it is recommended that orders are placed as early as possible in order to secure an allocation. As usual the 2007 Vinha Velha displays wonderful depth of character, revealing layers of fruit and great aromatic complexity, as well as the crisp acidity and tannic grip associated with wines from old vines. The Vargellas Vinha Velha vintage port is the most concentrated expression of the unique Vargellas terroir.



### Tasting note

Deep inky colour with magenta rim. Intense, pungent nose of black fruit, dark chocolate and liquorice with great depth and concentration. Layers of flavour assail the senses as the rich dark berry, ripe black plum, blueberry and luscious bitter chocolate almost overwhelm the palate. The tannins are lean, sinewy and perfectly integrated. The wine is clearly of enormous structure, but also so finely balanced the lasting impression is of a wine with great elegance and finesse. A never ending finish completes the picture of a wine that once again promises to be another extraordinary Vinha Velha from Quinta de Vargellas.



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