

**Assunto:** Fwd: The Unexpected Douro!  
**Data:** sábado, 8 de janeiro de 2022, 19:12:39 Hora padrão da Europa Ocidental  
**De:** Heather Willens  
**Para:** Mateus Almeida  
**Categoria:** Importadores

Em NY—cliente muito importante de Bowler.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** George Feaver <george.feaver@grapesthewineco.com>  
**Date:** January 8, 2022 at 4:12:26 PM GMT  
**To:** willens.heather@gmail.com  
**Subject:** **The Unexpected Douro!**  
**Reply-To:** info@grapesthewineco.com



***I have been doing email offer write-ups for many a year and, to my memory, I have never tapped out an offer for Portuguese white wines from the Douro Valley.***

***Having been to the Douro a few times, it never struck me as dynamic source for white wines, and I don't recall any memorable bottles. After all, they figured out long ago the crew of sturdy reds that thrived in that intense baking sun, the reds that made Port an iconic wine and made rugged red table wines. Must be some cooler climats and valleys where white wines thrive...***

***Not sure what has changed but of late seemingly every sample bottle is a winner; fresh and sleek, complex...delicious even. Dare I say, "World-Class!?!?"***

***These Douro Blancos will reward the curious and please a crowd. For the adventurous palate, they will surely ring the bell.***



## **1) 2018 Mateus Nicolau de Almeida Eremitas Douro Branco**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$18.99/btl**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$107.94/6 pack (\$17.99/btl)**

Mateus Nicolau de Almeida, of a family with long ties to the Douro, has two new projects which are as exciting as anything his family has done in the past: the Trans Douro Express, and the Eremitas (Hermits). The Almeida clan owned Ramos Pinto and the family is still responsible for the winemaking at that reputable Port house; Mateus' grandfather made Barca Velha, arguably the most iconic and historically important dry wine made in the Douro, paving the way for all that came after him.

From a vineyard situated at 500 meters with deep soils. The wines in the Eremitas line are all made the same way, with the fruit macerating on skins for a few hours in a granite basin. After pressing, the wine is racked into concrete vats where it ferments spontaneously without temperature control. Sees no oak. The Eremitas wines are named after the early Christian monks known as the desert monks, who isolated themselves in the desert meditating and searching for enlightenment.

*Tasting Note*

100% Rabigato. The farming here is organic, and biodynamic practices are also used. Plants are treated with cactus tisane and eucalyptus, all sourced locally from the trees that share the land with the vines.

Eremitas Paulo de Tebas 2018 is a white wine with aromas of white and citrus fruits, herbal notes and mineral touches. On the palate it is oily, intense and fresh. It has citrus and toasted flavours with a salty finish.

## **2) 2019 Maçanita Douro Branco**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$23.99/btl**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$137.94/6 pack (\$22.99/btl)**

Maçanita's Douro Branco exemplifies the confluence of richness and elegant minerality that is the hallmark of Douro whites. The indigenous Viosinho provides the backbone to this mineral driven wine, showcasing the slate soil and high-altitude plantings that fuel this project. Fermented and aged all in stainless steel, Antonio and Joana very capably maintain the freshness and acidity in this wine, yielding a wine of purity and balance.

*Tasting Notes*

Bright yellow-gold. On the nose, fresh floral aromas come along with ripe yellow and green orchard fruit and a touch of slate. On the palate, bright and juicy, with mouthfilling concentration and refreshing acidity. A core of green and gold apple, pear and white pepper are wrapped with pleasant floral and mineral flavors on the long finish. 533 cases made

## **3) 2018 Muxagat Douro Branco**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$22.99/btl**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$131.94/6 pack (\$21.99/btl)**

Muxagat is a family-owned property, with Susana Lopes at the helm and she has helped drive awareness of artisan, terroir-focused Douro Valley wines forward through her work. Winemaking is overseen by the legendary, Luis Seabra, widely regarded as the best winemaker in the Douro and one of the most influential wine professionals in Portugal.

*Tasting Notes*

2018 Muxagat Branco is a blend of 60% Rabigato, 30% Arinto, and 10% Gouveio. The resulting wine has incredibly broad appeal and versatility. Bright appearance and smelling of ripe peaches and pears and a full, round taste in the mouth without being too heavy. Because the wine has some bottle age there is a light honey quality not typically present in white wines that are released earlier. With a moderate 12% alcohol it has a freshness that allows for enjoyment without food. It also pairs well with white meat, seafood of many types, and lighter pastas. It pairs well with hard and soft cheeses.

## **4) 2018 Conceito Douro Branco**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$36.99/btl**

**Grapes Sale Price: \$209.94/6 pack (\$34.99/btl)**

Conceito is a family business with headquarters in Vila Nova de Foz Côa, an international project centered in the Douro Valley. The acquisition of the 83 hectares of vineyards around Vale da Teja started in the 1940s, but the first bottling occurred only with the 2005 vintage. The local climate is particularly cold, with high altitude, between 450m and 600m, and has both granitic and schistose soils.

Oenologist RITA MARQUES, with education in Douro and Bordeaux and professional experience in Douro, California, Bordeaux, New Zealand and South Africa, performs the winemaking of all the wines.

**RPWA 92-93**

"The 2018 Branco, the estate flagship, is a field blend from old (centenarian) vines aged for ten months in used French oak.

Principal grapes include common Douro whites, like Rabigato, Códaga, Códaga do Lario, Cerceal, Gouveio and others. It comes in at 13% alcohol. This was set for bottling in a week, but it was the final blend. Beautifully balanced, this handles its wood brilliantly, allowing the fresh fruit to show off its stuff. It's a little delicate this year, but it also has an enlivening demeanor that lets it dance across the palate. This understated white is perfect to drink, but it could use a bit more body. It is still young—let's see if it develops in the bottle."-Mark Squires