

WINE DESCRIPTION

GRAHAM'S 1985 VINTAGE PORT



Graham's

Graham's wines come primarily from its own Quinta dos Malvedos near Tua and Quinta das Lages in the Rio Torto. Two others, privately owned by a member of the Symington family, Quinta da Vila Velha and Quinta de Vale de Malhadas, also supply Graham with finest quality grapes. All four Quintas are among the best in the upper Douro valley. Graham's also buys grapes from selected farmers in the finest districts. Some of these farmers have been selling their grapes to Graham's for generations.

Tasting Notes

A very fine Vintage with a superb solid backbone and opulent intense fruit. It is beautifully fresh and assertive in the nose. Elegant and harmonious, this superb wine can be enjoyed now but will continue to improve for many years to come.

The Viticultural Year

The winter and spring of 1985 was extremely wet, with a cold spell in May, and by June the vines were some three weeks behind normal development. Hot and dry weather in July and August brought development back to normal. The summer-like weather continued from early September right up to the vintage. The fine weather continued into October with a slight drop in temperature and some rain during the night of the 3rd/4th but after a few cooler days the hot, fine weather returned and remained unbroken right to the end of the vintage, with maximum temperatures of 30°C daily.

Reviews & Awards

INTERNATIONAL WINE CHALLENGE 2003 – GOLD MEDAL

“The wonderful lustrous hue of dark amber hints at the age of this wine, and is verified by the rich coffee and burnt sugar nose. But still the luscious, syrupy, mouth-filling fruit and velvety caramel complexity provide a moment of utter bliss.”

Wine International, October 2003

Five Stars (Outstanding)

“...exhibiting its distinctive style. A gloriously velvety purple; harmonious from the start...lovely flavour and texture”.

Michael Broadbent, Vintage Wine, 2002

96 Points out of 100

“What more could one want in a young vintage Port? It has elegance and great power. Brilliant, deep ruby-colour, with boysenbury and liquorice aromass, full-bodied, very fleshy, with a firm backbone of tannins”.

James Suckling, Vintage Port, 1990

19 Points out of 20

“Very good colour. Very fine nose indeed, very classy, lovely fruit... Excellent chocolate and raisin rich fruit, real depth and concentration. Excellent”.

Clive Coates, The Vine, August 1987

96 Points out of 100

“The undisputed star and king pin of 1985 Vintage Port. In two blind tastings, it swept away all pretenders. Enormous structure, staggering depth, dimension and length”.

Robert Parker, Wine Byers Guide

Peter Symington, responsible with his son Charles for the vineyards and wine making, has been made 'Fortified Wine Maker of the Year' an extraordinary 6 times by the 'Wine Challenge'. Nobody else has won this important award more than once. In 2003, his son Charles won the same award.

Vintage Overview

A classic Vintage, with concentrated, rich and potent wines. General declaration.

Some wines just beginning to drink. The best need longer and will age very well for decades.

Contemporary Family Comments

“From start to finish of the vintage the grapes were uniformly healthy and fresh with no trace of mould, rot or other defects...All in all therefore, we have every reason to be extremely pleased with the 1985 vintage which has undoubtedly produced well above average quality wines throughout the region...”

Michael Symington
25th October 1985

Wine Specification

Alcohol by Volume: 20% v/v (20°C)

Total Acidity: 4.13 g/l tartaric acid

Baumé: 3.6

