



Luis Soares Duarte

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(loo-EES soo-AHR-ez doo-AR-Tay)



LOCATION

Vila Real, Portugal.
(*Douro*)
11 hectares. 520 meters.



ESTATE

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WINEMAKER

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ENOLOGIST

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ENVIRO-COMMITMENT

Hand-harvested.
No irrigation.



ESTATE PRODUCTION

2,400 cases.



PARTNERSHIP

Luis has been part of the Small
Vineyards family since 2008.

From Portugal's most prestigious dry wine zone, Douro, Luis Soares Duarte is determined, single-handedly if necessary, to pull his country into the light of 21st century European winemaking. Long known for their ethereal Port wines, Portugal is an explosion waiting to happen. Few places on the planet share the natural enological advantages of Portugal, with warm, consistent sun, heavy marine influence, and poor, schist soil of a type found most famously in the Priorat of Spain. Using the best technology and a passion for a transparent, "taste the place" style, Luis' wines just might be the best we have found in his native country. "Think of him as a young Warren Winiarski of the Douro - ready to put the hope of an entire industry on his back and lead the charge," says a respected cult wine critic. "Warren did it in the famous Paris tasting of the mid 1970s, and Luis hopes to do the same with Portuguese dry wines from the Douro." His signature wines have something for everyone. From old vines, his blends utilize Tinto Barroca, Tinta Roriz and Touriga Francais, and are absolute eye-openers. Thick, intense and mouth-filling, but not heavy or cloying in any way, Luis' style is to promote velvet, textural tannins, and fresh, sweet, spice-laden fruit (not the baked fruit some associate with the Douro). Yes, his wines are "big", but with perfectly managed alcohol (averaging only 13.5% alcohol for his reds). Perhaps in the end, Luis' greatest attribute as a winemaker is that - in the midst of one of the most outrageous places on earth to make powerful wines -- he maintains an admirable reserve.



Discovering the best hand-harvested, family-owned, earth-friendly Mediterranean wine.

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