



Monte da Capela Joana Roque du Vale

(zhoo-AH-na ROKE-du-VAHL-ay)



LOCATION

Beja, Portugal.
(Pias)
65 hectares. 480 meters.



ESTATE

Monte de Capela.
(MOHN-tay dah kah-PAY-lah)



WINEMAKER

Joana Roque du Vale.
(zhoo-AH-na ROKE du VAHL-ay)



ENOLOGIST

Joana Roque du Vale.
(zhoo-AH-na ROKE-du-VAHL-ay)



ENVIRO-COMMITMENT

Hand-harvested.
No irrigation.
Locally-sourced yeast.



ESTATE PRODUCTION

9,000 cases.



PARTNERSHIP

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

Being married to one of Portugal's greatest winemakers (Luis Soares Duarte) is not easy, especially when one is a prodigious talent in her own right. But Joana Roque du Vale, who makes top-flight wine with her father at their family estate Monte da Capela, manages quite nicely. The loving partnership with her husband has made both of them exceptional at their craft, even if they make wines in different styles in different zones. From Alentejo in the South, Monte da Capela is an estate with one foot in classicity, the other in modernity. Using the latest technologies in one of the oldest wine producing regions in the world, Joana (pronounced zhoo-AH-nah in Portuguese) is carving out an exceptional reputation for herself and their family estate. Because she enjoys wines of finesse, this third generation winemaker employs primarily French oak, or for her young wines, no oak, opting always for a fresh, approachable, style with a delicious richness, even succulence, derived from the uber-ripe fruit. Emanating from it all is a bouquet of exotic spices blown in from the north of Africa. Pungent, powerful, and beguiling, these aromas are straight from the lost attic of Marco Polo, with cumin, cinnamon, paprika, even clove. Joana is a master of gently easing these notes from her vines, and not covering them with clumsy cooperage or hyper-extraction. In the end, she has made a wine confident enough to be elegant – and when one tastes her work, it will be like few wines you have had before – expertly made, and unforgettably unique.