



Terras de Tavares 2008

João Tavares Wines

Winemaker:: João Tavares de Pina **Region::** Dão, Portugal

Grapes:: Jaen (60%), Touriga Nacional (30%), Rufete (10%)

Profile:: The wine is herbal, savory, meaty with a pop of red and blue fruit. It has vibrant tannins and is perfectly balanced in the mouth. Most are surprised by its youth and freshness right out of the bottle, no decant needed. Very reminiscent of Northern Rhone wines with age.

Grape Growing:: Soil is mainly granite with some schist. Soil allows longer growing cycle and a slow ripeness which aids in deeper more intense wine. Vines are trained with a mixed system of cordon and double guyot. Organically farmed grapes. Use of green harvesting and crop thinning which results in a yield of 3 tons per hectare. Biodiversity includes chamomile, clover, serradella, grass and lavenders. Vineyards are surrounded with oaks and eucalyptus and a rich culture of birds, bees, ants and earthworms.

Winemaking:: Spontaneously co-fermented with extended skin contact and no temperature control. Not fined or filtered. Expect sediment. Aged 36 months in old French barriques, bottle aged in cellar ever since.

More About the Wine:: João will tell you all he needs to make wine is grapes, water to clean his equipment and a touch of sulfur at bottling. He rarely uses products in the vineyard, and when he does he only uses topical organic treatments. In today's world, this is about as minimal as it gets. João isn't following a natural wine trend. This is how he and his father have always done it. His wine is proof that a deliciously powerful wine can be naturally made, and this 2008 is a perfect example of the kind of wine João makes.

Alc: 14%

PH: 3.7

TA: 5.78g/L

RS:

Sulfur: 59T/13 free in 2011

Soil: Slate and granite with high levels of clay

Altitude: 500-550m (1640-1804ft)

Vineyard Age: 15-85 years

Production Size: 1000 bottles

Pairing: Lamb, Veal, Venison, Truffles, Mushroom ragu, Bolognese pasta, Boudin Noir, Liver Cuisines: Portuguese, Northern Italian, French, Central Italian, Cuban, Mexican, Russian, Greek, Moroccan