

W. & J.
GRAHAM'S
ESTABLISHED 1820
PORT



GRAHAM'S THE STONE TERRACES
2011 VINTAGE PORT

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THE WEST FACING "PORT ARTHUR" STONE TERRACED VINEYARD

PRODUCTION: 250 CASES (3,000 BOTTLES - 75CL)
Every bottle is individually numbered.

Two small 18th century schist stone-terraced vineyards at Quinta dos Malvedos have consistently produced extraordinary Port wines.

Parcel 43, originally called 'Port Arthur' by the Graham family, has 1,379 vines on 1.2 hectares. Ten of the eleven stone terraces have only one row of vines on each. The retaining dry-stone walls are all hand built and average 1.6 metres in height. This vineyard faces due east and is between 102 and 119 metres above sea level.

The second vineyard is just 0.6 hectares and is called *Vinha dos Cardenhos*. This small plot is a perfect stone-walled

amphitheatre and faces due north with 1,329 vines. The upper part of the vineyard is a little higher than Port Arthur, rising to 134 metres.

Both these vineyards were in existence when Quinta dos Malvedos was originally bought by Graham's in 1890, although the vines have been replanted over the years when necessary. Touriga Nacional is the predominant vine but there are several other traditional Douro grape varieties in both vineyards.

The Port wines made from these terraces have always been prized at the Quinta for their unique characteristics; the 'Port Arthur' vineyard gets the full impact of the morning sun (primarily facing east) and the high stone walls become very warm. During the afternoon the sun no longer shines directly on the vines, but the schist walls radiate heat back onto each single row of vines, even during the night, ensuring a beautifully balanced ripening of the grapes. In the *Vinha dos Cardenhos*, the powerful July and August Douro sun, is attenuated by its northerly aspect. Consequently, the wines made from these two vineyards are markedly different to those made on the remaining 87 hectares of Malvedos vineyards that mostly face south.

In 2011, the Symington family resolved to pick both vineyards at the same time and ferment the grapes together in one *lagar*. Picking took place by hand on the morning of 21st September (in order to get cool grapes into the winery). 'Port Arthur' gave 0.91 Kg per vine and a Baumé of 14.10° and the *Cardenhos* vineyard yielded 1.2 Kg per vine and a Baumé of 14.80°. The fermentation temperatures were kept between 27°C and 29°C and treading took place at regular intervals until the cap was properly formed, after which it was plunged every 4 hours until the must was run off for fortification on the 24th September.

By the late Autumn of 2012, the hopes and plans of September 2011 were fully vindicated when Charles Symington and his cousins tasted this Malvedos 'Stone



THE STONE TERRACES OF VINEYARD
PARCEL 43 AT MALVEDOS

Terrace' Port and the decision was taken to bottle 4 pipes (casks), giving 250 cases of 12/75cl.

Graham's The Stone Terraces is a tribute to the men and women who laboured to build the original stone walls at Quinta dos Malvedos in the late 18th century.

Both vineyards can be seen on google earth at:
lat: 41°12'53.98"N / long: 7°26'16.80"W

Tasting Note: this wine is very individual; it has highly specific characteristics with a very intense tannic structure and a colour of purple-black intensity. The easterly and northerly aspect of these two small vineyards results in fresh scented aromas of violets and mint. There is a complex palate of weighty and spicy tannins combined with blackberry and blackcurrant fruit. This is an extraordinary wine of great power and elegance; it is a new departure for Graham's and the Symington family.

Wine Specification:

- Alcohol by volume: 20% v/v (20°C)
- Total acidity: 4.35 (g/l)
- Baumé: 3.60
- Bottled during April / May 2013 with no filtration or fining
- Winemakers: Charles Symington and Henry Shotton

APRIL 2013



THE NORTH FACING "VINHA DOS CARDENHOS" STONE-WALLED VINEYARD