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PORTUGUESE WINE IN THE NEWS

Portuguese wines had its first major break in US news in spring 2014 after Wine Spectator's Matt Kramer, having just completed long pilgrimage through the country's wine regions, exclaimed that [Portugal was the most exciting wine place on the planet today](#). By the time the magazine's much anticipated "Top 100" list came out in December, Portugal had amassed **more 95+** ratings than any other wine region in the world and found six of its wines on the

list, three of which in the top ten.

Jump ahead to the July 2015 issue of the magazine, and Portuguese wine is featured as the cover story for the first time in the magazine’s history. Kim Marcus notes in [his headlining story](#) that the table wines of Portugal offer more excitement than ever before – and the future will only get brighter.

Here are some other recent stories that put Portuguese wine in the spotlight:



	Market Watch, July/August 2015
	Tasting Table, August 19, 2015
	Drink Me Magazine, August 2015
	Forbes, June 16, 2015

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HARVEST KICKS OFF IN TEJO

The 2015 harvest is underway in Tejo’s wine region. The vintage began with a cold and relatively dry winter, followed by a warmer than average spring with temperatures in May skyrocketing to some of the warmest for that month on record. This early start to the season put vintages in a strong position going into the summer months. Unlike much of central Europe’s vineyards that saw extreme heat during parts of the summer, the cool Tejo River valley moderated the Tejo region’s climate. Overall, The summer climate was favorable with warm temperatures and dry conditions, with enough rain periodically to keep the ground hydrated. Vineyards were is good condition going into the harvest season with the season’s

drier conditions easing disease pressures across much of the region.

Harvest began the second week of August, approximately one week ahead of normal. Earlier ripening white varieties like Fernão Pires and Chardonnay came in first, and have been followed by Arinto, Verdejo, and other whites. The red grape harvest began a week ahead of schedule with Castelao, Trincadeira and Merlot among the first grapes to come in. The harvest should conclude by the end of September.

Stay tuned for the next newsletter where we will have a full recap of the Tejo harvest. In the meantime you can check out our [Facebook](#) page for some of the latest harvest photos from across the Tejo region.

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FEATURED GRAPE VARIETALS:



TRINCADEIRA is a hot-weather loving varietal that thrives in the Tejo region where the growing season is longer allowing it to fully ripen. Although difficult to grow, trincadeira produces wines with bright raspberry flavors, herbal and spicy tones while retaining its acidity. Trincadeira grows particularly well in Tejo's [Charneca](#) soils.



FERNÃO PIRES is a varietal that is found more widely in southern Portugal. Extremely versatile, fernão pires (also known as Maria Gomes in Northern Portugal) can be picked at various ripeness levels to achieve different flavor profiles – from bright citrus to luscious peach to fragrant tropical fruits. The varietal loves the warmer climate in Tejo and has moderate acidity and body.

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FEATURED WINERIES

[**CASA CADAVAL**](#)

Located 80km northeast from Lisbon, south of the Tejo River, Casa Cadaval has belonged to



the Álvares Pereira de Melo (Cadaval) family since 1648. Comprised of a sprawling 5,400 hectares, the estate, mainly occupied by cork trees and forests, is not only known for its wines but for also being one of the oldest breeders of Lusitano horses in the world. The 45 hectares of vineyards, located in the terroir known as charneca, are cultivated primarily with native Portuguese varietals such as Trincadeira, Touriga Nacional,

Aragonês, Arinto, Fernão Pires, which are vinified to produce wines according to the family's vision of producing the highest quality expression of the Tejo region's terroir.

QUINTA DO CASAL MONTEIRO



Established in 1979, Quinta do Casal Monteiro produces estate wines from Portuguese and international varietals planted on 80 hectare vineyard property. The winery was founded on the legacy of Dom Luis de Margaride, who inherited the estate in 1928 and devoted his life to the study of viticulture in the Tejo river valley – one of the

oldest wine regions on the Iberian Peninsula. Today, it is this great respect for the land and a strong passion for the art of winemaking that drives our quest to ultimately produce the best wines our terroir has to offer.

Check out the recent [Daily Meal](#) story featuring Quinta do Casal Monteiro.

FIUZA & BRIGHT



Formed in 1985, Fiuza & Bright, is a partnership between the Fiuza family, who have a long history of viticulture, and the internationally renowned Australian oenologist, Peter Bright. Among the first to plant international varietals in the Tejo region, their vision was to make wines that embodied the essence of the tradition of Portugal but appealed to the modern wine lover. As

pioneers in the region, their wines have garnered hundreds of international awards and have led the way for the modern day renaissance in the heart of Portugal's Tejo region.

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NEW TO THE US MARKET

JOÃO M BARBOSA VINHOS



Located near Rio Maior in Tejo, João M. Barbosa has a long history of winemaking that began at his grandfather's vineyards in northern Portugal region. Today, his estate is in the heart of the Serras de Aire and Candeeiros National Park and is planted with six hectares of south-facing vineyards north of the Tejo river with soils comprised of clay-limestone topsoil over a bed

of salt rock about 40m below. The focus is on small production wines that highlight the unique terroir and retain their elegance and finesse in the bottle.

Now available in select states through [NLC Wines](#).

CASAL DA COELHOIRA



For over three generations, Casal da Coelhoira has been committed to producing the best and most distinctive wines possible from their 64 hectares of vineyards. Located in the Charneca area of Tejo, the wines are produced exclusively from the winery's estate vineyards with a focus on balancing tradition and modernity. The passion for Portuguese viticulture and winemaking traditions has garnered Casal da Coelhoira international

recognition and acclaim for quality-driven wine with exceptional character and value.

Now available in California through [D'Ouro Vino Selections](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wines of Tejo will host two invite-only seminars for trade and media in Chicago and San Francisco in September. Led by Master Sommelier Eric Entriakin, each seminar will feature 10 wines from 10 Tejo producers with an emphasis on the indigenous grapes that thrive in Tejo's terroir. Details can be found on our [website](#).

Credentialed trade or media professionals in Chicago or San Francisco interested in getting on the guest list can contact Allison Slute, trade@winesoftejo.com or 202-499-4264.



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TRADE MEMBERS VISIT TEJO AND DISCOVER THE UNDISCOVERED



Wines of Tejo recently hosted a select group of trade and media during the peak of the harvest season for a 4-day immersion trip to the region. Participants toured vineyards, tasted wines, crushed grapes by foot (oh yes!!), experienced the local cuisine and met one-on-one with producers.

The participants went to discover why many believe Portugal to be **one of the most underrated wine regions in the world** and to seek out producers with whom to form **long-term relationships**

as they build their portfolios for 2015 and beyond.

Check out our [Facebook](#) page to see more great moments from the trip.

If you are interested in participating in future trade missions to the Tejo region, contact Allison Slute at the Wines of Tejo U.S. Office, trade@winesoftejo.com, to put your name on the list for future consideration.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

Thank you for subscribing to the Wines of Tejo e-newsletter specifically catering to trade and media in the U.S. Your feedback is welcome! Please send comments and questions to trade@winesoftejo.com.

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CONTACT INFO

Wines of Tejo has a U.S. trade office in Washington D.C. and a media relations firm in New York City. Click [here](#) to get in touch.

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