



Name of Wine: Vinhas Velhas White (Old Vines)

Producer: Luís Pato

Region: Vinho Regional Beiras (actually Bairrada)

Vintage: 2008

Grape Varieties: A blend of **50% Bical** (a grape with fresh acidity and good peachy-floral flavours, important in the Beiras. The wines are good young, but age well to exhibit increasingly toasty complexity. Often blended with other grapes), **30% Cerceal** (aka as Arinto, this makes steely, high acid whites that age well. Although usually blended with other grapes, it makes good lemony, mineral whites that gain complexity with age), and **20 % Sercialinho** (a cross between Cerceal and Alvarinho aka known in Spain as Albariño)

Grape Source:

Vineyards: Estate owned vineyards located in Bairrada.

Soil: Chalky clay and sand.

Vinification:

Harvest: Hand harvested

Maceration/Fermentation: Fermented in stainless steel tanks and aged in new French Allier oak, large 650-litre barrels for 4 months.

Other:

Alcohol Volume: 12%

Ratings: **100 Points** Vinos Unico Staff

Tasting Notes:

This is very serious wine clearly meant for ageing but already drinking well. This has the weight and density of good white burgundy but lower alcohol and much more zippiness, very fine acidity plus hints of minerals, smoke and nuts. Complex and intriguing.

History:

Documents reveal wine production since the 18th Century. It is one of the first Estate's in Bairrada to start bottling their wines in the 1970s. The current owner Luís Pato is the winemaker and himself is an intelligent, press-friendly ex-chemist. Ironically, although he's the one person who has probably done the most for the international visibility and reputation of the Bairrada region, Pato no longer bottles any of his wines under the Bairrada appellation with the exception of a dessert wine he makes with his daughter a skilled winemaker herself Filipa. Instead, he uses the wider generic VR Beiras label, as a protest against what he considers to be an over-legislative attitude of the regulating authorities. Due partly to Luis Pato's rebel-like actions with his wines in 2003 radical changes have been made to the DOC wine laws in Bairrada.

VINOSUNICO
WINE IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALERS

3031 BRODERICK STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123

T 415-674-6958 F 409-2832

vinosunico.com