



Name of Wine: Maria Gomes Vinho Espumante Bruto

Producer: Luis Pato

Region: Bairrada, Portugal

Vintage: 2009

Grape Varieties: A blend of **90% Maria Gomes** An aromatic varietal widely planted from Beiras down to the Setúbal Peninsula. It's slightly muscatty and floral and makes easy drinking sparkling wines as well great dry and off-dry whites aka Fernão Pires outside of the Beiras region and **10% Baga** One of the highest

yielding Portuguese grape varieties, spread throughout the country but most concentrated in Bairrada and Dão. The grapes come into their own when well ripe, showing wines of deep color and great structure, with powerful tannins and everything in place to evolve well in the bottle.

Grape Source:

Vineyards: Estate owned vineyards located in Bairrada. **Soil:** Sandy clay.

Vinification:

Harvest: Hand harvested during the end of August

Maceration/Fermentation: The Maria Gomes and Baga are fermented in separate stainless steel vats under control temperature for two weeks. The second fermentation was made in bottle just like Champagne which additional lees aging of 6 to 9 months.

Other:

Alcohol Volume: 12.5%

Tasting Notes:

A very refreshing sparkler with beautiful floral notes and peachy, yellow plum like fruit. Not trying to be like Champagne, Luis really wanted to showcase the varietal Maria Gomes in a sparkling rendition, the addition of the Baga adds structure to the blend.

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 owner Luís Pato is the winemaker and 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 only bottles a few of his wines under the Bairrada appellation. 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. Starting in 2008 Luis Pato's top reds started using the Bairrada designation again.

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