



Name of Wine: Luis Pato Vinho Branco

Producer: Luís Pato

Region: Vinho Regional Beiras, Portugal

Vintage: 2009

Grape Varieties: A blend of **95% 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 **5% Arinto** (Brings high acid and ageing potential, lemony, and mineral qualities to the blend)

Vine Ages: Average 35 years old

Cases Produced: Aprox. 3,000 cases annually

Grape Source:

Vineyards: Estate owned vineyards located in Bairrada.

Soil: Sandy clay.

Vinification:

Harvest: Hand harvested

Maceration/Fermentation: 100% stainless steel tanks with no malolactic fermentation.

Other:

Alcohol Volume: 12%

Ratings: **100 Points** Vinos Unico Staff

Tasting Notes:

Soft aromas of honey suckle, lemon peel, sea air and a whiff of muscatty fragrance. The palate gives rich flavors of honey, peaches, minerals and citrus fruit. Fresh, light, and modern a fantastic spring and summer white. Will pair well with seafood.

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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