



**Name of Wine:** Muralhas de Monção Rosé (The Walls of Monção)

**Producer:** Adega Coop. Regional de Monção

**Region:** Vinho Verde sub-region of Monção, Portugal

**Vintage:** 2010

**Grape Varieties:** A blend of: **Alvarelhão**, which produces light, well-balanced wine with good acidity; **Pedral**, grown primarily in the Monção sub-region, it is an early ripening grape with moderate sugar that produces light, ruby colored wines; and **Vinhão**, creates deeply red coloured wines, opaque to light. It is believed to be originally from the Minho, before finding its home in the Douro, where it is known as Sousão. It is one of only a few *teinturier* grape varieties, whose flesh and juice are both red.

### **Grape Source:**

**Vineyards:** 1,700 small member-growers supply the grapes for this dry-farmed cooperative, together they farm roughly 1,200 hectares of vineyards, averaging fewer than 2 acres of vines per grower.

### **Vinification:**

**Harvest:** Hand harvested

**Maceration/Fermentation:** Fermented in stainless steel tanks. No oak aging. No malolactic fermentation.

**Other:**    **Alcohol Volume:** 11%

### **Tasting Notes:**

Light pink in color. Nice acidity with light effervescence and excellent red berry and watermelon notes. A dry food friendly rose, it will pair particularly well with spicy Latin food or Asian food like Thai or Szechuan.

### **History:**

Established in 1958, Adega de Monção is one of just a handful of well-run cooperatives in Portugal. It operates from just south of the medieval walled city of Monção and its growers come from both Monção and nearby Melgaço, which together make up a sub-region of Vinho Verde where Alvarinho is king. The Monção Cooperative is the single largest producer of Alvarinho, accounting for more than half the production of the Monção sub-region. It has grown from its original 25 growers to over 1,700, farming over 1,200 ha. In common with most cooperatives, grapes are selected by their sugar reading rather than *terrior*. It is a testament to the success of the Monção Co-op that “Muralhas” is one of the most reliable and best-known Vinho Verdes in the thousands of fish restaurants that line the coast of Portugal from Lisbon to the Minho. (*The Wines and Vineyards of Portugal*)

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