



2011 Anselmo Mendes Parcela Unica

A Alvarinho Dry White Table wine from Vinho Verde, Portugal

Review by Mark Squires

eRobertParker.com # 206 (Apr 2013)

Rating: 90

Drink 2013 - 2020

Cost: \$35

The 2011 Parcela Unica, is a single vineyard, oaked Alvarinho (oak fermented and then aged in mostly new 400 liter barrels for 8-9 months) coming in at 13% alcohol. It is showing beautifully at the moment. The oak is a bit jarring if you've just tasted more typical Alvarinho—i.e., unoaked. Still, it is better integrated now than when I first saw it, showing obvious woody notes and some tannins, but no vanilla. The wine overall is quite elegant and graceful, with a fine, bright finish that laces through the wood. It should certainly age well, too. The price point, happily, is far less than what I was originally told, although it is obviously not cheap for Vinho Verde. As with all of Mendes' top wines, there is a gorgeous, gripping finish and impeccable balance. Yes, I, too, would rather have my Alvarinho sans-oak. Relatively speaking, its Curtimenta sibling, the other oaked offering this issue, is a bit more subtle in its wood usage and I found this a bit more aggressive, but both should continue to improve with cellaring. Nota bene: I know some winemakers who insist that wines like this will hold up far better to stronger foods. I think they have point. To prove it, I tried some with a little slightly spiced chicken later and the oak was suddenly no issue at all. The wine seemed to have more clarity. Philosophy on oak aside, this is a surprisingly graceful wine in most respects, with the potential to improve in the cellar. Drink now-2020. Importers: Wine in Motion, Union, N.J.; tel: 908-688-3837; Wine Wise, Oakland, CA; tel: (510) 524-2270; Obrigado Vinhos Portugal (Muros Antigos only), New York, N.Y.; tel: (917) 273-7854; Aidil Wines & Liquors, a division of Olde World Imports, Inc., Rahway, NJ; tel: (973) 642-0044 (for Muros Antigos only).
