



2012 Anselmo Mendes Parcela Unica

A Proprietary Blend Dry White Table wine from Vinho Verde, Portugal

Review by Mark Squires

eRobertParker.com # 212 (Apr 2014)

Rating: 94

Drink 2014 - 2023

Cost: \$36

The 2012 Parcela Unica, is a single-vineyard Alvarinho, aged for nine months on the lees in minimal toast, 400-liter barrels of new French oak. Bottled in July, 2013, it was held back another six months in bottle before release. This unusual project for Mendes is the result of his conclusion that, after a decade of tasting, he consistently got his best results from "this one unique vineyard." Like most everything I've seen from Mendes in this vintage, this is an impressive wine. Handling its oak beautifully, it has many stylistic nods to the Curtimenta also reviewed this issue, which I've sometimes preferred in some years. Both of these beauties are concentrated and display power. They both have the ability to rise above the oak and make the fresh fruit and acidity the dominant themes. If anything, though, this does it even better this year. I sometimes look askance at Alvarinho and oak and I've often wondered how amazing this bottling could be if un-oaked, but after a while this year, you don't even think of the oak. The fresh fruit, the minerality, the acidity--that's what you think of. It has a touch more finesse than the Curtimenta. They both have invigorating bursts of acidity. It may be my favorite bottling of this brand, yet a tremendously impressive Alvarinho that does everything right, from showing depth to freshness to lingering persistence on the finish. It seemed virtually unchanged the next day. It is impressive for its balance, too. There is nothing distorted here, ever. May I just say--Mendes swings for the fences here and hits a home run. Drink now-2023. These are the latest releases from one of Portugal's great white wine producers, particularly known for his Alvarinho. Here, there is no real talk of sweetness or fizz. That's not what Anselmo Mendes is all about. He is just making white wine. The wines range from great values to seriously fascinating stuff that will change your view of the region. Importers: Wine in Motion, Union, NJ; tel: 908-688-3837; Wine Wise, Oakland, CA; tel: (510) 524-2270; Obrigado Vinhos Portugal (Muros Antigos only), New York, NY; tel: (917) 273-7854; Aidil Wines & Liquors, a division of Olde World Imports, Inc., Rahway, NJ; tel: (973) 642-0044 (for Muros Antigos only).
