



## 2016 Pegos Claros Grande Escolha

Review by Mark Squires

*RobertParker.com* # 249 End of June 2020

Rating: 92

Drink: 2020 - 2036

Cost: \$35-36

The 2016 Grande Escolha Pegos Claros Vinhas Velhas is a Castelão aged for 12 months in a mixture of new and second use French oak. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol. This is sourced from the winery's oldest vines, centenarian plots. This is Castelão, so you know that you will get a wine with big flavors to the point where some will prefer something more subtle. This is chock-full of red fruits, especially strawberries. It has some Grenache-like nuances. If anything, the grape is often more exuberant than Grenache. That said, it shows off structure too. This has beautiful structure, with moderate tannins and excellent balance, and it is likely to age well. As they age, they acquire more distinction, complexity and subtly. This looks like a beauty. The tannins are ripe enough so that you could drink it now if you had to, but that would be a mistake. I would give it at least another year or two in the cellar to integrate its parts better. For that matter, it might not hit anything resembling peak for another four to six years. We'll take the aging curve in stages just now, but it might hold even better than suggested.