



2014 Touriga Nacional Tyto Alba

Review by Mark Squires

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Rating: 88

Drink: 2017-2026

Cost: \$35-36

The 2014 Touriga Nacional Tyto Alba was aged in a mixture of French (80%) and American (20%) oak for 12 months, 30% new and 70% four years old. Of the 2014 Tyto Alba reds this issue, my longer-term prediction for "best of brand" would probably be the Merlot, but this is the winner today for its far more interesting personality. Maybe that is just a pick of Touriga over Merlot. Still, this is a very respectable performance for a value wine in a tough year. (It is worth noting that it also comes in at a somewhat lower price level than the Merlot.) Not showing a lot of concentration, but good for the year and level, it does have many virtues. It has a brighter feel than the Merlot, together with better aromatics (no surprise there) and spicy flavors. Right at the moment, this is a lot of fun, thanks to its lively feel. It is drinking decently now. Don't expect it to truly reward extended aging, but it will be fine for several years.