



2015 Pegos Claros Reserva

Review by Mark Squires

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Rating: 90

Drink: 2019- 2030

Cost: \$16-18

The 2015 Reserva Vinhas Velhas is all Castelão, aged for one year in well-used French oak. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol. The "old vines" designation means around 70 years here (whereas on the Grande Escolha, it is 90+). Full in the mouth and pointed on the finish, this is more of a fruit-driven wine than the Grande Escolha. While still quite dry and serious, you get more of that red fruit flavor the grape tends to throw off. Unlike many such, it is not candied or sweet, not even a little. The structure on this is very fine too, but the tannins are more moderate than on some of the Grande Escolhas. It's more open just now too. Overall, it's fair to say that this is not the best wine here—it is not as deep or as intense—but it's certainly the best value and in an accessible style. It's a fine bargain.

This winery is a specialist in Castelão, the regional signature. It is also about all they have in the vineyard. They found small amounts of other things here and there, but they are close to 100%.