



2016 Pegos Claros Reserva DOC Palmela

Review by Mark Squires

RobertParker.com # End of March 2021

Rating: 92

Drink: 2021 - 2033

Cost: \$21-23

The 2016 Reserva Vinhas Velhas is all Castelão aged for one year in well used French oak. It comes in at 13.8% alcohol. The "old vines" designation on the back label means 70+ years here. Fairly powerful and intensely flavorful (Castelão can be a flamboyant grape), this seems more concentrated than one would think and it finishes with a little tannic pop even at this late date. For the price, this is a steal, a terrific bargain considering both its structure and fruit quality. That said, you will have to like that flamboyant Castelão demeanor. Think Grenache—but more so. The big finish lingers nicely, gripping the palate and slamming those strawberry flavors into it. Overall, this has plenty of room to develop more in the cellar. It should hold well for the rest of the decade, probably more. No matter where it goes, it is a lot of wine for the price point. There were 2,500 six-packs produced.