



2020 Tyto alba Merlot D.O.C. Do Tejo

Review by Mark Squires

RobertParker.com # End of August 2022

Rating: 88

Drink: 2022 - 2030

Cost: \$32-34

The 2020 Merlot Tyto alba was aged for 12 months in a mixture of new and used French barriques. It comes in at 13.9% alcohol. This, unlike so many Bordeaux grapes in Portugal, actually has a classic feel to it in its flavor profile. It is a little on the light and friendly side, but there is length on the flavorful finish. Admittedly, some of that is wood derived, but the wood is always well handled. Overall, this clean and balanced Merlot shows great. To take the next step in that Bordeaux comparison, it needs to look even better in 10 years. There, I have a lot of doubts, and I won't be surprised if this is actually about as good as it gets. It probably lacks the structure and concentration to get to the next level, but this fruity Merlot sure is fun today. For the moment, let's lean up.