



2017 Pegos Claros Reserva DOC Palmela

Review by Mark Squires

RobertParker.com # October 2021 Week 2

Rating: 91

Drink: 2021 - 2033

Cost: \$23-25

The 2017 Reserva Vinhas Velhas is all Castelão, aged for one year in well-used French oak of varying ages. It comes in at 13.9% alcohol. The "old vines" designation on the back label means 70+ years here. There's an effort at Pegos Claros on a regular basis to make fairly fresh and elegant Castelão. It is a grape that sometimes can be overbearing and overwhelming if not handled correctly. This is similar to recent vintages, showing off some freshness and mid-palate finesse to go with some power on the finish. There's a real backbone here, but the tannins are not very hard. Overall, it is an elegant package with structure and brightness, a perfect food wine. It adds some red fruit flavor to seal the deal. It may and probably will improve over the next couple of years. It should hold well thereafter, maybe longer than anticipated. There were 8,265 six-packs produced.