



DOURO VALLEY, PORTUGAL - TAYLOR'S, FONSECA & CROFT PORT

The quantity of Port made is subject to a licence issues – the Beneficio – which has no real link to production. In fact the production in the 2014 harvest was normal – 2013 was larger, 2012 smaller, 2011 similar, 2010 much smaller. It was a very even season with an excellent growing season. The coastal regions suffered from cooler weather, the Douro had excellent ripening conditions for balanced yields. The first 10 days it was like 2011, the last 10 days like 2002.

The harvest therefore saw great Ports made during the first 10 days, the middle 10 were moderate as a result of some rain, the last 10 days poor due to very wet conditions. The first 10 days we were harvesting from our farms and suppliers in the Alto Douro and we got some great Ports. The middle was mixed as we had already picked 30 % from our farms around Pinhao when the rain came. The poor weather had the worst impact for the Baixo Corgo, where standard Ports come from.

The wines from 2014 are very useful and make great LBVs and Aged Tawny. Some have the potential to make excellent Single Quinta Vintage Ports, subject to the normal caveats we make of not yet knowing how they will close up over winter.

