

# Graham's 2018 Quinta dos Malvedos Vintage Port



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Quinta dos Malvedos has been the cornerstone of Graham's Vintage Ports ever since it was acquired in 1890. The estate still contains large areas of traditional vineyard laid out on terraces supported by dry-stone walls, built by hand in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## THE PROPERTY

The 160-hectare estate is particularly well-sited in a zone of transition from the Cima Corgo to the Douro Superior subregions of the Douro Valley, bringing together the best of both, it enjoys reasonable rainfall and abundant sunshine. The vineyard is predominantly south-facing and the ample hours of sunlight provide even and complete grape ripening, resulting in very well-balanced wines.

#### THE YEAR

The 2018 growing season was a rollercoaster, consisting of a winter drought, a deluge in spring and heatwaves through the final ripening period. There was almost three times the average amount of rainfall in March at Quinta dos Malvedos, which meant that the growing cycle started later. As a result, the berries were more vulnerable to the heatwaves during the final ripening period, when temperatures reached 43°C at the estate.

The Touriga Nacional benefited from the added soil moisture and delivered the estate's signature eucalyptus and mint notes. The late-ripening Touriga Franca from the estate's higher-lying vineyards, thrived in the hot harvest days and contributed ripe black fruit flavours, while the Sousão delivered a wonderful freshness.

### THE WINE

