

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION** The House of Croft has announced that it will release a Quinta da Roêda single-quinta Port from 2018:

**Adrian Bridge, Managing Director:**

“The Quinta da Roêda estate produced excellent wines in 2018. The old historic terraces at Roêda consistently produce wine of vintage quality. They are now being joined by more recent plantings resulting from the investments made since we acquired Croft in 2001. I am delighted that we will be bottling a Quinta da Roêda single-quinta Vintage Port from 2018. It displays the characteristic ripe fruit and scented herbal character that we associate with the Roêda wines but the year has added a thread of fresh acidity and firm, wiry tannins to give the wine structure. As usual, we will be bottling the wine in July. However, given the current economic circumstances, it will be held back for the time being and released early in 2021.”

**David Guimaraens, Head Wine Maker:**

“Although some vineyards in the Pinhão area had a challenging year in 2018, particularly as a result of the severe hailstorms in May, we were fortunate that the conditions at Quinta da Roêda were excellent and the estate produced some beautiful wines. Roêda has one of the best aspects of any property in the Douro, with excellent exposure. The hot summer conditions in 2018 ensured that phenolic ripeness at Roêda was excellent and, as well as the rich, ripe fruit, the wines have excellent tannins, beautifully intergrated but with a lively grip on the finish.”



**NEW RELEASE**  
**QUINTA DA ROÊDA**  
**2018**  
**VINTAGE**

**CASES PRODUCED**  
**2.000**

**TASTING NOTE** Very deep purple black at the centre, with a narrow purple red rim. Although the nose displays the seductive, opulent red fruit character which is a familiar feature of Roêda vintage ports, there are also intense, woodland berry aromas which add focus and finesse. As usual, the fruit is wrapped in an envelope of exotic balsamic, minty, eucalyptus scents. The first impression on the palate is of roundness and a rich, velvety texture but there is excellent acidity and well-integrated grippy tannins which emerge on the finish. The finish is powerful and very long with persistent crisp, red berry flavours. Although, as always, the 2018 Roêda Vintage is ripe and seductive, the characteristics of the year and the contribution of the wines from Roêda's oldest vineyard plots has placed this superb single-quinta Vintage Port at the elegant and restrained end of the spectrum.

**NOTES ON THE 2018 VITICULTURAL YEAR AND HARVEST**

The weather pattern in 2018 was somewhat erratic and sometimes challenging but in the end the conditions required to make excellent Vintage Port all fell into place. The year started extremely dry, as there had been very little rain the previous year, and in January about two thirds of Portugal's land area was suffering from drought. The stress on the vines from the arid conditions was relieved in March by heavy rainfall. The weather station at Croft's Quinta da Roêda recorded 223 mm of precipitation during the month. This replenished the ground water reserves depleted the previous year and this ground moisture was to prove decisive during the ripening season. The weather remained cold and wet until the end of June and the vineyard cycle was about three weeks behind the previous year's calendar. A dry and relatively mild July was followed by a baking hot month of August, temperatures well above 40°C being recorded early in the month in the eastern districts of the Douro Valley. The intense heat allowed the cycle to accelerate. The abundant reserves of water in the ground, built up in the spring, meant that the grapes matured evenly and gradually in spite of the hot conditions. Picking at Quinta da Roêda began on 17th September, in hot, dry weather. Yields were low but the wines were recorded as have excellent colour intensity, very good acid balance and elegance and freshness of fruit.



One of the original founding Port houses, Croft traces its origins to 1588 when the company was established in England by Henry Thompson, a member of the Merchants Company of York. The Croft family, which joined the partnership in 1736 and gave the firm its present name, served the Port trade with great distinction. The reputation of Croft as a Vintage Port producer derives to a large extent from its ownership of Quinta da Roêda, one of the finest estates in the Douro Valley, and from such legendary wines as the Croft 1945, recognised as one of the finest of that landmark year. In September 2001, Croft became part of The Fladgate Partnership, the family group which also includes the famous Taylor's and Fonseca Port houses.



**QUINTA DA ROÊDA** forms a vast sweep of terraced vineyard located on the north bank of the Douro just upstream from the village of Pinhão. The estate has long been regarded as one of the finest of the Douro Valley estates. The 19<sup>th</sup> century poet Veiga Cabral wrote, 'If the Douro may be called the golden ring of Portugal, then Quinta da Roêda is the diamond set in that ring.' The estate was acquired by Croft in 1889 and was extensively renovated by the firm, with replanting continuing throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since Croft's return to family ownership, with its incorporation into The Fladgate Partnership, the property has again been the source of major investment. This includes the building of traditional lagares (granite treading tanks) allowing the reintroduction of foot treading, still unsurpassed as a method of extraction for Vintage Port. The character of Croft Vintage

Ports is one of the most individual of all. Scented, exotic and crammed with luscious opulent fruit flavour, they develop great richness and complexity with age. Quinta da Roêda is at the heart of this distinctive house style. Its wines always form the base for the Croft Vintage Port blend and, in the case of the 2016, all the components of the blend in fact come from the property, including wines from the estate's extensive terraces of old vines. Before dams tamed the Douro in the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it flowed over a series of treacherous, fast running rapids. One of these was located on the curve of the river in front of Quinta da Roêda and the sound of the water rushing over the boulder-strewn riverbed could be heard throughout the vineyard. The name Roêda is said to be derived from the word that described that sound, 'arrueda'.

