

Quinta da PLANSEL



History

At the end of the 1960s, Hans Jörg Böhm began importing Portuguese wine into Germany. By 1969 he had become the largest importer of Portuguese wines in Germany, and he visited Portugal regularly. In 1976, Jörg Böhm became the first foreigner to create a wine export firm in post-revolutionary Portugal, and it was only a few years later that he submitted a proposal to the Portuguese government on the breeding and certification of grapevine material.

In cooperation with the University of Geisenheim, the University of Évora and the national Agricultural Research Station in Oeiras, Jörg Böhm devoted himself to the certification of the traditional autochthonous (indigenous) Portuguese grape vine varieties. Today, one could well say that the fundamental research done in the 1980s on grapevine varieties contributed to the later success both in Portugal and abroad of the wines produced at Quinta da PLANSEL.

After completing her degree in oenology at Geisenheim University in 1997, Dorina Lindemann moved with her husband, Thomas, to Portugal to join her father. She used the existing vineyards from the grapevine breeding operations established by her father to produce her own wines and systematically extended the vineyards as part of a targeted expansion program involving the production of propagation material.

Decades' worth of experience were quickly passed from father to daughter. And much more experience was gained from the first 20,000 liters of wine produced in 1997. Today, annual production stands at around 400,000 liters. This is not that impressive until you realize that Dorina purposely seeks to achieve low yields, even with the simplest of table wines.

Today, Dorina and her two daughters, Luísa and Julia, enthusiastically advocate Portuguese wines vinified from the grapes of autochthonous varieties, especially those from the Alentejo region. Combining oenological knowledge and expertise with the study of biodiversity in regional varieties is of particular interest. Site-specific adaptation of grapevine varieties to the terroir of Quinta da Planasel, often referred to as "precision viticulture," is an integral part of the estate's success story.

Both her daughters are following in the footsteps of their mother and grandfather so that, together, they can successfully meet the economic challenges ahead. In this demanding profession, Dorina relies on the collaboration and expertise of agronomist Carlos Ramos in the cellars and agronomist José Manuel Valadas on site in the winery.

Portuguese Wine from the Vineyards of Capela de Sta Margarida/ Pintada

Because of the 15th-century chapel here, these vineyards are situated on historical land, and look idyllic with the river nearby. These are the first officially certified vineyard facilities in the country. Particular mention should be made of their co-existence with surrounding natural ecosystems which include the endemic but rare wild grape (*Vitis silvestris*) at the river's edge. The first vines planted here in 1997 were pre-propagation material of traditional Alentejo grapevine varieties, but then subsequently, the vineyards were replanted with grapevine varieties from the north of the country. These successful adaptation experiments then led to the official recognition of these reference grapevine varieties in the viticultural region of the Alentejo.

Capela de Santa Margarida Biológico is a red blend of the organic varieties growing in this vineyard plot including Aragonez (Tempranillo clone), Trincadeira, and Alicante.

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