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Your Luxury Property

YLP MAGAZINE

Luxury, lifestyle and much more.



Your Luxury Property helps you to find your dream house

QUINTA DO FRANCÊS

“Life is good, but wine is better.”

in PESSOA, Fernando. Poesias Inéditas (1930–1935).

The Algarve, which saw many of its vineyards disappear in favour of the tourism industry and as a result has never really been pushed as a winegrowing region, has finally made peace with its past and is embracing its wine-producing potential. This change is down to a fistful of producers, who have fought to create wines of great quality in this paradise of sun and sea. In this issue we went to meet one of them, Patrick Agostini.

Born in France, to an Italian family with winegrowing traditions, Patrick studied pathology in the region of Bordeaux. In his spare time, urged on by the passion he had inherited from his family, he also took a degree in Oenology and Winegrowing. Later on he decided to settle in Portugal, with his wife Fátima Santos, to make his dream of producing wine come true. The valley of the Odelouca River provided a terroir with the ideal climate and soil conditions to develop the Quinta do Francês estate from scratch. South-facing slopes, schistose soils, which, limiting the

absorption of water, promote exceptional concentrations in the grapes, in addition to the combination of the area's warm and dry climate with the sea breezes off the Atlantic, which favour grape ripening and at the same time stop them from over ripening. After the tough work of preparing the soils, the vines were finally planted in 2002, over an area of eight hectares. Grape varieties chosen include Trincadeira, Aragonês, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.

The success of Quinta do Francês and Odelouca wines was instantaneous and the effort made by the pathologist (still working!) have been rewarded with a shower of awards in the most varied of national and international competitions. The colossal challenge of getting the Algarve back on the map of fine wines is right on track and it is a huge pleasure to see local wines with great personality appearing on an increasing number of restaurant wine lists. The growing reputation of the winegrowing region of the Algarve is due to producers such as



Patrick Agostini, who, despite the difficult competition, have focused on the quality and uniqueness of their production.

Piqued your interest? Why not arrange to take a guided tour of the vineyard and winery of the Quinta do Francês estate with the lovely Tânia, to find out more about the winemaking process and to taste its elegant and balanced wines? We were already fans of the Quinta do Francês Red (with its silky tannins and hints of artichoke, spices and vanilla) and of the Syrah (with its huge personality and hints of chocolate, white pepper and tobacco), but on our last visit to the estate we were presently surprised by the new 2015 rosé! A clear and bright coloured rosé boasting aromas of red berries and tropical fruit (especially passion fruit). On the palate it is elegant, compelling and complex.

Surrender to the charms of the Algarve's winemaking process and cheers from us all!

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