

### 2009 Wine & Soul (Pintas) Guru

Rating: 90  
Drink: 2010-2013

The 2009 GURU is the winery's old vines (49 years) Branco, a blend of Viosinho, Rabigato, Codega do Larinho and Gouveio. Dominated by oak initially, which shows at this stage a little bit more than normal, it seems to me, this is also bright and piercing, showing excellent acidity in this vintage, giving it a very bright feel. I was impressed at how the fruit kept poking up over the oak and asserting itself. Rather disjointed when I first saw it, this should be a superb Guru when it calms down and pulls itself together. It showed impressive intensity on the finish and ultimately became remarkably graceful. There were 4,500 bottles produced, along with some large format bottles. Drink now-2013.

Importer: Winebow, Inc., Montvale, N.J.; tel: (201) 445-0620...

- Mark Squires (December, 2010)

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### 2008 Wine & Soul (Pintas) Pintas

Rating: 94  
Drink: 2013-2028

The 2008 PINTAS is this year's iteration of the flagship wine, a very old vines (78 years) Douro field blend. Like a lot of wines in this vintage, this opens with a hard edge, crisp and bright, powerful and closed, with an elegant mid-palate. It is also fragrant and flavorful, persistent and lingering on the finish. As it aired out, it dribbled persistent flavor over the palate, while retaining its elegance and intensity. Much different at this stage than the '07, it is very pointed and focused, better integrated with respect to oak, and more powerful. It is a wine that I suspect will develop beautifully in the cellar. Its price tag will be off-putting to many, but this is a wine that should give a collector a chance to play with it for awhile in many different incarnations. I liked it more and more as I spent more and more time with it. Admittedly a little hard to evaluate when I saw it, it has a lot of upside potential and I think it will be one of the more interesting wines of the vintage when it settles down. There were 5,500 bottles produced. Drink 2013-2028.

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### 2008 Wine & Soul (Pintas) Pintas Character

Rating: 90  
Drink: 2012-2023

The 2008 PINTAS "CHARACTER" is an old vines (40+ years) field blend. It is the second wine from this boutique, and usually quite a good one. Like so many reds in this vintage—I am beginning to feel like a broken record and since alphabetically this is the last winery in the report, I can say that now!—it opens a bit lean, with a crisp, rather austere finish and quite a bit of power. It takes some time and patience to coax much out of it. Yet, there is an interesting wine here, even if not a very sexy one. Some time does allow it to open and it is graceful, intense and gripping. Whether it will ever be quite as attractive as the winery's '07 is another matter, but I think it may give in complexity what the '07 gave in sex appeal, and the '08 may well age better, so you'll have some time to find out. When this finally started to open, I just loved the succulent finish, the juicy fruit dribbled over my palate. Ok, say it has a little sex appeal of its own. It just needs a little wake-up time. There were 15,000 bottles produced, plus some large format bottles. Drink 2012-2023.

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### 2009 Quinta de Chocapalha Arinto

Rating: 88  
Drink: 2010-2012

The 2009 ARINTO is fresh and fragrant, with some acidity lurking underneath the relatively fat first impression. The acidity is there and does pop up, so don't be fooled by the first impression. I liked this more and more as it aired out and as its acidity became more gripping and apparent. It became more persistent and piercing, not less. This is likely to be an inexpensive crowd pleaser (the 2008 had a suggested retail price of \$13), tasty and thoroughly enjoyable. It is debatable whether it is Chocapalha's best white, but it is most certainly the best bargain, gloriously fragrant, crisp and tasty. I would always err on the side of drinking this young and fresh and would consider it at peak now and over the next year at most, however long it holds. It may decline fairly quickly as time goes on. There were 3,500 bottles produced. Drink now-2012.

There is no USA importer now for this winery. Co-owner Alice Tavares da Silva indicated to me that they are looking for a new importer. I would expect that to be resolved in the near future....

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