



PURVEYOR TO HM THE QUEEN OF DENMARK'S HOUSEHOLD

**WARRE'S**

FOUNDED IN 1670 PORTUGAL

P O R T



---

WARRE'S 2020 VINHAS VELHAS VINTAGE PORT  
350th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

---

---

## WARRE'S 2020 VINHAS VELHAS VINTAGE PORT

---



OLD VINES, QUINTA DA CAVADINHA



**350th Anniversary Edition**  
**2,400 bottles (75cl)**

Warre's 2020 Vinhas Velhas (old vines) Vintage Port is made exclusively from the deep-rooted, horse-ploughed, 80 to 100-year-old mixed vines (field blend) at two of Warre's estates: Quinta da Cavadinha and Quinta do Retiro, each of which contributed roughly equal amounts to the final blend.

This is the first time ever that we have produced a Warre's Vintage Port exclusively from the old vines at two of our estates. The wine is intensely fruit-driven with an unparalleled concentration and elegance that belies the conditions of the year.



EACH YEAR, HORSES PLOUGH THE OLD VINEYARD AT CAVADINHA

These magnificent old vines produced just 380g per vine at Cavadinha, the lowest yields recorded this century (apart from 2004) in our old vineyard parcels at the estate. Yields at Quinta do Retiro were even lower, an incredible 240g per vine (less than half the average of the last decade). It took three vines to produce one bottle of this Vintage Port – typically it requires just one vine.

Average cumulative annual rainfall at Cavadinha for 2020 practically equated what we could expect in a normal year: 805.7mm, compared to the 30-year-average of 815mm. However, 2020 was a good example of very unevenly distributed rain, with the critical growing months of June and July being exceptionally dry – just 9.2mm when the average for the two months is five times more. Adding to this, the year was one of the hottest of the 21st century: the Cavadinha weather

station recorded an annual average temperature of 15.2°C, which is 1.5°C higher than average.

In July, the combination of very low rainfall at Cavadinha – just 3.2mm – and particularly high temperatures (4.5°C above the 30-year monthly average), brought about one of the smallest vintages recorded in our lifetime. No wonder that the harvest was concluded in just a little over two weeks (when between three and four would be normal), being even shorter at Quinta do Retiro where it took just five days to pick the grapes. Throughout much of the Douro, the challenging conditions put the vines under considerable strain with widespread dehydration leading to raisining and some crop loss. But it is in years such as these that the Douro’s remarkable diversity of terroirs really comes into its own and can make all the difference. Cavadinha’s higher altitude and cooler east-facing aspect combined to substantially mitigate the effects of the heat and the lack of rain during the summer. Just as importantly, the very deep roots put down by the old vines, which can go as far as 8 metres (24 feet) deep into the soil, allows them to tap every bit of available moisture. Although not as higher lying as Cavadinha, Quinta do Retiro also benefits from cooler east and northeast facings.



QUINTA DO RETIRO

### The wine

The grapes for the Warre’s 2020 Vintage Port were drawn exclusively from Warre’s two Cima Corgo vineyards: Quinta da Cavadinha and Quinta do Retiro. Warre’s third vineyard, located in the remote Douro Superior, Quinta da Telhada, was not considered for this Warre’s Vintage Port blend. Uniquely, only grapes from very old vines

were selected as these performed exceptionally well both at Cavadinha and at Retiro, where they still make up sizeable proportions of the vineyard plantings (24% of Cavadinha's vineyard area and a remarkable 35% of the Retiro estate). Cavadinha makes up 53% of the final blend and Retiro the remaining 47%.

The exceptionally low yields and high graduations resulted in amazingly deep-coloured and concentrated musts that produced beautifully structured and intense wines with beguiling freshness provided by streaks of fine acidity.

### **Tasting note**

Exultant freshness reveals an incredible range of floral, fruit and herbal aromas, including rose, lavender, cloves, blackberries, and notes of mango. This is a wine that woos and seduces with its elegance and irresistible charm. On the palate it is concentrated and multilayered with the fine-grained tannins underscoring the many dimensions of this beautifully structured, complex wine.

### **Wine Specification**

- Alcohol by volume – 20% v/v (20°C)
- Total acidity – 4.70 (g/l)
- Baumé – 3.60
- Bottled during May 2022 with no filtration
- Winemakers: Charles Symington, Mário Natário



AN ANCIENT VINE AT RETIRO



PRINCIPAL TO HIS HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SERRAVALLE'S RESIDENCE

**WARRE'S**

FOUNDED IN 1670 PORTUGAL

P O R T



[www.warre.com](http://www.warre.com)

[www.thevintageportsite.com](http://www.thevintageportsite.com)