

HOWARD'S FOLLY



THE WINEMAKERS CHOICE 2013

A blend of Syrah, Alicante Bouschet and Touriga Nacional from the Portalegre subregion in the north of Alentejo, at 500 m elevation. Partially aged in used French and American oak. This year we put all the Reserva wine went into the entry-level wine.

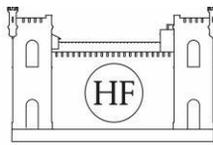
Blackish dark crimson. Ripe tobacco-leaf flavours and a bit of alcohol and oak on the nose. Lip-smacking in a 20th-century sort of way. Dry finish after a really quite rich palate. Oak traces and a bit of sour-plum character. Quite a bit of tannin still. *Jancis Robinson 16 points*



THE TOURIGA NACIONAL 2015

Very dark blackish purple. Really nice combination of ripe fruit and energetic mineral notes. Great balance and fullness but freshness too..... It's already gorgeous and great fun to drink. *Jancis Robinson 17 points*





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THE 2016 SONHADOR ALVARINHO

Richly saline, broad nose chock full of character. This is a very fine wine with masses of both acidity and ripe fruit. It's also very youthful but user-friendly. Racy with a hint of blue cheese and lots to chew on. I suspect this will be even better next year. **Jancis Robinson 16.5 points.**

And then Jancis tasted again:-

Excellent acidity and drive. Spreads all the way across the palate. Lime fruit on the finish. Very racy indeed. Great for current drinking. Very 'cool'. Masses of integrity. **Jancis Robinson 16.5+ points**

Bright and clear light yellow with lemon tints, white fruits on the nose, fresh pear, peach but not apple, attractively tangy, quite broad but very clear and precise, good tightness and lift on the finish with tangy acidity remaining to refresh the palate. **Steven Spurrier 16.75/89 points.**



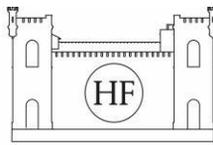
THE 2013 SONHADOR ALVARINHO

Deeply aromatic - even a suggestion of oak though the technical sheet says not - spiced with both pear and orange aromas. Intensely fragrant. Smells creamy too, thanks to the lees. There's a lovely light tannic grip on the palate that balances the aromatic fruit perfectly, making this a wine that would be great on its own or at the table. Fresh as well as deep. Savoury and pear-fruited. Long and satisfying. Very good indeed. Has a great combination of power and freshness, expressing both the region and the variety. Delicious. **Jancis Robinson 17 points**

Bursts with tropical fruit – really juicy but concentrated pineapple with a touch of honey/syrup and lipsmacking greengage for balance. It maintained full throttle fruit and line on day two when it was too moreish not to disappear down the hatch! **Sarah Ahmed, Daily Telegraph.**

Aromas of lemon skin and dried apples plus hints of flowers and stones. Medium body, lovely freshness and density. Long and flavourful. Real Vinho Verde. **James Suckling 90 points**





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THE 2012 SONHADOR



Inky black cherry colour, still showing some purple at the rim - very youthful looking. Complex aroma but not yet into tertiary mode – lots of dark fruit, a touch of mint, no one variety dominating though there's pepper, sweet fruit spice and a lightly floral note as if each variety were contributing to the whole. Really lovely depth on the palate, rich, generous and spicy dark fruit and yet with an elegance and freshness that seems to come from the site. Firm but finely textured, still seems to be in its infancy but approachable now with food. Just a hint of dark chocolate on the finish, but it is dry not sweet in its effect. Lots of pleasure and good length. **JH for Jancis Robinson 17 points**

The wine is bright and silky, high in acidity, moderate in depth and without a trace of jam. It doesn't lack for intensity of flavor, but the flavors are always lifted and it revolves around its structure. It has a very cool climate feel to it. I really liked this well-priced Tinto, The future here is promising. **Robert Parker 90 points**

Very deep carmine/purple, still no age at all right to the rim, dense black and red berry fruits on the nose, both ripe and briar and Syrah dominates with structure and grip, Touriga Nacional adds florality and spice and Alicante Bouschet provides the flesh, all blended in well thanks to short ageing in oak, full-bodied with a refreshing finish due to natural acidity and tannins, still young and good to 2022. **Steven Spurrier 17/90 points.**



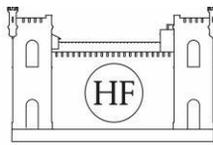
THE 2012 RESERVA

Inky black cherry colour, almost black at the core and still very youthful looking. More obvious oak compared with the Sonhador 2012 but also a little more savoury, still that slight minty character. Lovely dry-textured dark fruit, a touch of dark chocolate in that dry texture and refined in its rocky darkness even though the sweetness of the oak spice counterbalances that to some extent. Tannins chewy and quite thick, thicker than the Sonhador, but still showing impressive freshness on the finish for such a big wine.This should have a long future as the texture becomes more refined. **JH for Jancis Robinson 17++ points**

This takes the Sonhador and adds a little more power and also more mid-palate depth to soak up that power. This is tight, crisp and powerful, with mid-palate finesse and refinement. The silky texture makes it sensual and gives it a bit of a Burgundian feel. **Robert Parker 92+ points**

Intense and deep red with blackberry, dark-chocolate and walnut aromas with hints of dried rose petals and sandalwood. Full-bodied, dense and layered with lots of spice and berry character on the finish. Big and juicy, yet there's a linear line of tannins flowing through it. A blend of syrah and alicante. Drink now. **James Suckling 92 points**





HOWARD'S FOLLY



THE 2011 RESERVA

The 2011 RESERVA HOWARD'S FOLLY is an 80/20 blend of Syrah and Alicante Bouschet, sourced from 15-year-old Portalegre vines at 550 meters in altitude. The best Reserva here yet, this is graceful and easy to approach, but its crisp demeanor and moderate tannins immediately give it some life and vitality. It puts on some weight and fleshes out in the glass. Then, the fine flavors come through on the lingering finish. It's pretty delicious, too, simply bursting with flavor. It improved notably over an hour or so in the glass. This relatively new venture (although its lauded winemaker - David Baverstock - is hardly unknown) is rounding into form. There's a lot here to like. **Robert Parker 91 points**

Lots of tar and wet-earth character. Dried fruit and berry undertones. Full body, soft and round tannins and a flavorful finish. Juicy and flavorful. Needs some time to soften. **James Suckling 91 points**



THE 2011 SONHADOR

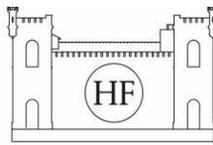
The 2011 SONHADOR HOWARD'S FOLLY just screams "elegance" at you. Graceful and understated, its texture is velvety and there is not a hair out of place. It finishes with juicy fruit and bursts of flavor. The ripe tannins give it a "drink-me-now" feel, Don't ogle this debonair wine, just drink it. You'll be happy. **Robert Parker 88 Points**

Using awesome raw materials, brilliant winemaking (David Baverstock) and affording staggering value for money, You are unlikely to find a more complete, succulent and layered red wine anywhere in the world for the same cash. I commend it to you, but hurry as production is very limited. **Matthew Jukes (wine writer for Daily Mail)**

Healthy crimson. Mellow nose and fully resolved palate of sweet, nicely combined fruit and mineral notes. Very good balance of ripeness and freshness. Thoroughly satisfying. Lightly, attractively, dusty on the persistent finish. **Jancis Robinson 16.5 points**

I like the spice and tar character with ripe fruit and hints of stones. Full body, black pepper and cloves. Rich and flavorful. No wood. Drink now. **James Suckling 91 points**
and flavourful. Real Vinho Verde. **James Suckling 90 points**





HOWARD'S FOLLY



THE NV EDIÇÃO LIMITADA 6033

The NV Edição Limitada 6033, HOWARD'S FOLLY is a blend of three vintages (2010, 2011 and 2012--the "20s" adding up to 60 and the 10, 11 and 12 adding up to the 33; hence, the "6033" in the name). It is an equal blend of Syrah (used French oak), Alicante Bouschet (used American oak) and Aragonez (new French oak). It comes in at 15% alcohol. Adding a bit of concentration to the 2011 Reserva (also reviewed), this also gains the edge in complexity of flavor, although not in freshness. This leans more to richness. Sweet-edged on opening, with tightness on the finish, this still demonstrates both finesse and balance, as well as that intensity of flavor. It improved very dramatically with 60 to 90 minutes of air. It became a very different and far superior wine. That seems to be a good sign. There were just 400 magnums produced. **Robert Parker 93 points**

This is a delicious and rich red that gives you a decadent and opulent flavor of blueberries, tar, cedar and nuts. Full body and very soft and velvety tannins. A whimsical blend of three vintages: 2010, 2011 and 2012. **James Suckling 94 points**



THE 2008 RESERVA

Label by Xu Bing – one of China's most important and critically acclaimed artists. The label uses New English Calligraphy which is a new method of writing invented by Xu Bing. It looks like Chinese but it isn't. You can read it. Clever isn't it?

The 2008 Reserva Howard's Folly is a blend of 90% Syrah and 10% Alicante Bouschet, aged for 12 months in a mixture of new and used American and French oak barrels. It comes in at 14% alcohol, a focused mid-palate, sweet fruit, and a lot of Syrah and Alicante. It is quite sexy at times. Here, however, the sweet fruit, while still exuberant and boldly flavored, is a little toned down. The wine finishes with crisp intensity and some tannic pop, and then lingers nicely. Drink now-2018. **Robert Parker 89 points**

