

2020 Edition of the “Best of the Year” Awards by Vinho Grandes Escolhas magazine

Domingos Soares Franco named “Winemaker of the Year for fortified wines”



Domingos Soares Franco, winemaker that completed 40 harvests and 39 years at José Maria da Fonseca, was recently named “Winemaker of the Year for fortified wines”, by the wine publication “Vinho Grandes Escolhas”. In this gala, also Hexagon 2015 was considered among the Top 30 – dream wines of 2020.

According to the magazine, Domingos Soares Franco is a central figure of Moscatel de Setúbal, not only honouring its tradition but also fostering its innovation, maintaining and building on the vast legacy that José Maria da Fonseca has. The wines presented in 2020 are a tribute to his creative spirit, showcasing some unique and brilliant wines like the ones using Armagnac and Cognac brandies

Domingos Soares Franco received this award with joy and surprise. When accepting this nomination, Domingos recalled his uncle António and a small group of winemakers and vine growers that were the cornerstone of today’s Portuguese wine business. Domingos also shared the award with his winemaking team, which has been a great support to him.



Along with this accolade, the wine **Hexagon 2015** was also named one of the best of 2020 by the tasting panel of “Vinho Grande Escolhas”, being selected to the Top 30 – dream wines of 2020.

This red wine originating from the Setúbal Península, stands out as “one of the finest creations from Domingos Soares Franco”, according to the wine magazine in its annual Gala. This Hexagon 2015 was considered the best Hexagon to date, after 8 different vintages. The first Hexagon was the 2000 vintage, and was the result of a challenge presented to Domingos Soares Franco to make a world-class wine from the Setúbal Península.

Produced with 6 grape varieties (that are always the same since the first vintage) - Touriga Nacional, Syrah, Trincadeira, Tinto Cão, Touriga Francesa and Tannat – this wine reveals a unique complexity, a deep rubi colour, and a dense aroma. In the palate, the tannins are well integrated and the finish is long. This wine aged for 10 months in new French oak and is the perfect match for game and cheeses. The Hexagon 2015 has a very long ageing potential, at least 16 years after its bottling.

In this Gala, José Maria da Fonseca also delivered the award for best “Wine Shop of the Year” to Wines 9297.