



## VERTICE PINOT NOIR 2011

**£41.50**

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Located in the small town of Alijo in Cimo Corgo, Caves Transmontanas produces premium traditional-method sparkling wines from the Douro valley, under the Douro Vertice label. The project began in 1980s when current winemaker Celso Pereira brought his then mentor to the region. This was Californian sparkling winemaker Jack Davies from the legendary Schramsberg winery. They spotted the enormous potential of the region and after several years of trials began production in 1989. Today only around 100,000 bottles are made every year, and these are widely regarded as Portugal's finest sparkling wines.

Surrounded by the Transmontanas mountains and the borders of the Douro valley, the climate is hot and dry in the day, but with cold nights. The West is sheltered from the damp winds by the granite hills of Marão and Montemuro. The vineyards grown on granite and schist soils are subjected to very hot and dry summers and harsh and long winters with lots of frost and snow. The grapes are planted at 600m of altitude on granite soils which helps develop minerality, balance and finesse. The conditions are too challenging to produce any classic Port wines but ideal for sparkling!

The whole bunches are pressed pneumatically and then a traditional méthode champenoise secondary fermentation in bottle is followed with an extended with an ageing on lees for a minimum of 8 years. A low dosage of 4 g/l would classify this as extra-brut.

**Grape:** Pinot Noir

**Tasting Notes:** An incredibly complex nose of roasted

peach, hazelnut, brioche, honey and berries. Powerful and complex, this world-class fizz offers up layers of rich flavour and fine, persistent bubbles but with a fresh, long mineral finish.

**Food Match:** Ideal with cheeses, shellfish and canapes.

**An alternative to:** The very finest champagne

**Closure:** Natural Cork

**Awards:** 94 points Wine Advocate

**Farming Practices:** Contains Sulfites

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