

## THE 2007 VINTAGE PORT OFFER

Often the greatest vintage ports are made in those years when there is a long wet winter and cool spring. The 2007 were one of those years when the rain fell and replenished the water tables after four hot dry years. Fortunately the balance of steady warm temperatures and healthy vine growth, without the extremes of mildew onset or summer heat waves, ensured slow but complete berry ripeness. Temperatures suddenly shot up to 35-38 C in the first two weeks of September, which gave a final boost for ripening tannins and grape sugar accumulation.

All the grape varieties performed well. 'Perfect harvesting conditions with cool nights and warm days played a vital role in the final development of the grapes'. David Guimaraens, head winemaker, The Fladgate Partnership also said that 'ripening has been very even and balanced at all our properties and this is already shining through in the wines. There is excellent acidity and structure and an attractive fresh fruitiness'. Dominic Symington of the Symington Family shared similar praises 'Touriga Franca and the last grapes came in on 9<sup>th</sup> October, thus completing a vintage of virtually perfect weather.'

Christian Seely, Managing Director Quinta do Noval comments: '*Although quantity was relatively small (often less than a kilo per vine), quality is excellent, and we believe that 2007 will go down as a great year*'. '*I rate it better overall than 1977 or 1955..I give it 98 points, the same as 2003*'. James Suckling, Wine Spectator.

*'The vintage ports I tasted below were some of the finest tasted in terms of balance of fresh fruit concentration, phenolic ripeness and very good acidity. They are beautifully pure and elegant and will provide immense pleasure to Ports lovers'*.  
Guy Willings, L'Assemblage Ltd.

<b>Port House</b>	<b>Cs Size</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£ / Cs</b>	<b>Scores</b>
<b>Taylor's</b>	12 x 75cl	<i>Black, inky violet. Racy intense black fruits earth and rose aromas. Ripe chewy tannins that are silky and integrated. Fresh, vibrant, elegant style.</i>	<b>399</b>	98 GW 94-97 WS 18+ JR
<b>Taylor's</b>	6 x 75cl		<b>205</b>	
<b>Fonseca</b>	12 x 75cl	<i>Inky black. Intense, pungent black fruit aromas mixed with mocha and mint. Full sweet, almost jammy fruit. Chewy textured, tannins are nicely integrated. Long flashy finish. This will age for decades.</i>	<b>385</b>	96 GW 92-95 WS 17.5 JR
<b>Fonseca</b>	6 x 75cl		<b>195</b>	
<b>Croft</b>	12 x 75cl	<i>Exotic spice and rose aromas intermixed with rich cassis and plum fruit. Spicy powerful style, delicious fruit ripeness with a warm finish. Long keeper.</i>	<b>315</b>	94 GW 18 JR 89-92 WS
<b>Croft</b>	6 x 75cl		<b>160</b>	
<b>Vintage pack</b>	<b>2007</b> 3 x 75cl	<i>An original case containing one bottles each of Taylor, Fonseca and Croft.</i>	<b>115</b>	

<b>Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas Vinha Velha</b>	3 x 75cl	<i>Intense pungent fruit. Rich dark berry and plum with bitter chocolate notes. Earth and textured tannins follow on a long persistent finish. Pure elegance.</i>	<b>285</b>	95 GW
<b>Dow</b>	6 x 75cl	<i>Deep, concentrated and evocative. Intense cassis, plum and menthol hints. Classic dry, spicy Dow character. Huge tannins with layers of liquorice and a nervous raciness. Big and bold and built for longevity. A great Dow.</i>	<b>175</b>	95 GW 96 NM
<b>Graham</b>	6 x 75cl	<i>Deep purple with cassis and rose petal nose. Unctuously rich sultana, fruitcake flavours with exceptional concentration and balanced acidity of 4.8g/l.</i>	<b>190</b>	97+ GW 96-99 WS 18 JR
<b>Warre</b>	6 x 75cl	<i>Made from three quintas Telhada, Retiro Antigo and Cavadinha. Sweet forward blackberry and pepper nose. Warm, rich with power and depth.</i>	<b>165</b>	94 GW 95-98 WS 17.5 JR
<b>Quinta do Vesuvio</b>	6 x 75cl	<i>Made from low yielding vines, 55% Touriga Nacional &amp; 45% Franca. Rich, smooth with a spicy bouquet. Fine depth silky tannins, layered and long.</i>	<b>175</b>	95 GW 94 NM
<b>Smith Woodhouse</b>	6 x 75cl	<i>Deep, opaque purple due to very old vines used. Spicy rock rose aromas. Rich, liquorice, pure cassis fruit and a powerful long finish. Will age well.</i>	<b>145</b>	93 GW

<b>Gould Campbell</b>	6 x 75cl	<i>Very intense, rich blackberry aromas from very ripe Touriga Nacional and fragrant violets and rose from the Touriga Franca grape. Finely balanced.</i>	<b>125</b>	91 GW
<b>Noval</b>	12 x 75cl	<i>The mature perfectly ripe grapes were trodden by foot, traditionally in granite lagares. Sumptuous sweet pure cassis, smoke and floral aromas. Silky smooth tannins and harmonious balance. Quite forward and elegant with some restrained power completing the structure. Long and stylish..</i>	<b>tba</b>	95 GW

**WINES ARE AVAILABLE IN BOND PER CASE SIZE SHOWN.**

**SCORES BY :-**

GW = Guy Willings, L'Assemblage Ltd ( Including Notes)

WS = James Suckling of The Wine Spectator

JR = Jancis Robinson MW

NM = Neil Martin of [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com)