

## WINE DESCRIPTION

# DOW'S 1985 VINTAGE PORT

  
ESTABLISHED 1798

# DOW'S PORT

### Dow's

Dow's is owned and managed by the fourth generation of the Symington family, Port producers since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The family, whose experience dates back over 100 years, supervises all the vineyards, winemaking and ageing of this wine.

Dow's owns two of the Douro's finest Quintas, Senhora da Ribeira and Bomfim. They were acquired in 1890 and 1896, making Dow's one of the first houses to invest in premium vineyards.

### Tasting Notes

Excellent ruby colour, with rich and complex aromas of mature berry fruit and hints of spices. On the palate good fruit flavours, full bodied, excellent round tannins and a long lingering finish.

### The Viticultural Year

The winter and spring of 1985 was extremely wet, with a cold spell in May, and by June the vines were some three weeks behind normal development. Hot and dry weather in July and August brought development back to normal. The summer-like weather continued from early September right up to the vintage. The fine weather continued into October with a slight drop in temperature and some rain during the night of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> but after a few cooler days the hot, fine weather returned and remained unbroken right to the end of the vintage, with maximum temperatures of 30°C daily.

### Reviews & Awards

#### GOLD MEDAL

##### International Wine Challenge 2009

"A spicy eucalyptus nose, with black cherry peppery fruit, long firm finish. Dry and complex, with a long life ahead."

#### Four Stars (Very Good)

"Most recently I recorded a dry finish but perfect ripeness."

Michael Broadbent, *Vintage Wine*, Published 2002

"The Symington family consider this one of their "stars". Lovely classic bouquet, full of fruit and health. Great "grip" and Douro liquorice. Try and keep it a few more years."

Serena Sutcliffe, *Sotheby's Catalogue*, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2001

"Fleshy and raw, bursting with fruit on the palate but starting to close up. Deep, dark ruby purple, with intense tar and berry aromas, full-bodied, with ripe berry flavors, full tannins and a long finish."

James Suckling, *Vintage Port*, Published 1990

"My favourite was the DOW - very youthful, but extremely exciting, promising just like great young Bordeaux many layers of complex flavour to come."

Jancis Robinson, *London Evening Standard*, July 1987

Peter Symington, responsible with his son Charles for the vineyards and wine making, has been made 'Fortified Wine Maker of the Year' an extraordinary 6 times by the 'Wine Challenge'. Nobody else has won this important award more than twice. In 2003, his son Charles won the same award.

### Vintage Overview

A great classic Vintage, with concentrated, rich and potent wines. General declaration. Some wines just beginning to drink. The best need longer and will age very well for decades.

### Contemporary Family comments

"From start to finish of the vintage the grapes were uniformly healthy and fresh with no trace of mould, rot or other defects...All in all therefore, we have every reason to be extremely pleased with the 1985 vintage which has undoubtedly produced well above average quality wines throughout the region..."

Michael Symington  
25<sup>th</sup> October 1985

### Wine Specifications

**Alcohol:** 20% vol (20°C)

**Total acidity:** 3.98 g/l tartaric acid

**Baumé:** 2.7

