



## CHURCHILL'S VINTAGE 2011 DECLARATION

I am delighted to make the official "Declaration" of our Churchill's 2011 Vintage Port and I am particularly proud to present this stunning Vintage.

The Churchill's 2011 is a wine that has the concentration, complexity, quality and finesse, as well as the natural acidity and tannic structure to age well for at least 50 years. It is what I call a classic Vintage Port.

A classic Vintage Port is made to last. It may lack the instant appeal of more precocious wines at an early age; it tends to be closed on the nose, tannic on the palate and tight in structure, but, after a decade in bottle it will begin to open-up and reveal its true identity; that fabulous combination of distinctive but individually different component wines, which make up its well balanced and complex character.

This is the magic of Vintage Port.

Our Churchill's 2011 Vintage Port has been blended from a variety of old vineyards. The backbone of the blend has been sourced from our old vines at Quinta da Gricha (a field blend of 50 year + old vines).

This top class grade "A" vineyard, which is situated on the South bank of the river Douro, benefits in hotter years, such as 2011, from its cooler, more northerly exposure. Apart from its intense colour and mineral qualities, Quinta da Gricha brings to the Churchill's Vintage blend a fresher and more high-tone component; its concentrated berry nose, its fresh resinous palate and its excellent natural acidity provide the blend with a firm tannic structure that ensures greater longevity.

As is customary at Churchill's, our 2011 Vintage Port was vinified in traditional granite lagares at Quinta da Gricha. We continue to tread the grapes in the time-honoured way. The extraction of colour and tannins is an essential factor in contributing towards the wine's structure and bottle-ageing potential, and I believe that treading continues to be still the most effective maceration process for producing classic Vintage Port.

Johnny Graham

