

## Symington Family Estates

Oporto, Portugal-based Symington Family Estates ([www.symington.com](http://www.symington.com)) is the leading producer of premium quality Ports and a family business since 1882. Even today, a member of the family is directly responsible for every bottle of Port they produce, from managing the Douro vineyards through the wine-making, aging, and tasting processes. Six Symingtons work in the business representing the 13th generation in the Port trade via their great grandmother, Beatrice Atkinson. Symington Family Estates owns and operates several of the premium Port houses in Oporto today, including preferred brands like W. & J. Graham's, Dow's, and Warre's.

The company has long maintained a reputation for pioneering wine-making in the Douro. Symington Family Estates was the first major producer to introduce auto-fermentation at its Bomfim winery in 1964 and, in 1990, they developed a special cooling system for the traditional stone lagares at Quinta do Vesuvio. In 1996, they opened Quinta do Sol, one of the most advanced wine-making facilities in the Douro and, in 1998, the family designed and introduced its revolutionary robotic lagar, a treading technology developed to mimic the human foot, which allows maximum color extraction by "walking" the length of a stainless steel lagar with



four temperature controlled "feet" that exert an optimal amount of pressure on the fermenting must.

The company has long been recognized within the industry for their outstanding product, most recently by Robert Parker who spoke of their Graham's as "candidate for wine of the vintage...a tour de force" and the Dow's and Warre's as "stars of the vintage." ●



*Left top: All of the grapes for Quinta do Vesuvio Vintage Port are trodden in the traditional method by foot; Left bottom: Auto-fermenters at Quinta do Sol; Upper right: Graham's Lodge; Bottom right: The robotic lagar at Graham's Malvedos winery is a Symington innovation and a mechanized way of treading grapes; Center, top to bottom: Graham's 2007 Vintage Port; Quinta do Vesuvio 2007 Vintage Port; Dow's Late Bottled Vintage*