

Editors'
CHOICE

Symington Family Estates



Johnny, Dominic, Paul, Charles, and Rupert Symington with his dog, Chili, at Symington Family Estates in Oporto, Portugal

A FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1882, SYMINGTON Family Estates (www.symington.com) is based in Oporto, Portugal and is run by five members of the family from the fourth generation. Symington Family Estates has for many years been the leading producer of premium quality Ports, and a member of the family is directly responsible for every bottle of Port that is produced, from managing the Douro vineyards through the wine-making, aging, blending, and tasting processes. 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, Cockburn's, and Warre's, while carefully maintaining the traditional distinct styles of these historic brands.

The family has moved over three decades to expand its vineyard holdings and reduce its dependence on purchased grapes, and is today the largest owner of top-classified vineyard in the region. The family now owns and manages over 2,200 acres of prime vineyard land in the Douro region, including such famous estates as Quinta do Vesuvio and Quinta dos Malvedos in the heart of the region on the banks of the Douro River, an area of outstanding natural beauty recognized as a UNESCO heritage site. The Symington family has also pioneered improvements to Port vinification methods over several decades, and now operates state-of-the-art automatic treading machines in several of its specialist Port micro-wineries.

In the past decade, Symington Family Estates has developed a range of dry table wines from the Douro region to be offered alongside its traditional Port bottlings. This represents an exciting new development area for the family with the Douro region of Portugal rapidly gaining recognition as a region capable of producing dry reds of world-class quality.

During 2011, Symington Family Estates has managed once again to win more major awards than any other Port company. The Graham's, Cockburn's, Warre's, and Dow's Ports have been awarded a total of 14 Gold Medals at the 2011 editions of the most prestigious international wine contests. These outstanding results reflect Symington Family Estates' single-minded commitment to quality and the absolute dedication of the family to their wines. ●