GOOD QUALITY AND AVERAGE PRODUCTION IN EARLY VINTAGE

- 2026 Harvest Report -

The wines from the 2026 harvest in Portugal are of good to very good quality, the result of a year that was quite rainy in winter, hot and dry in spring and summer, and favourable during the grape harvest.

Sogrape is Portugal's leading wine company, with 1,000 hectares of vineyard in six key wine regions—Alentejo, Bairrada, Bucelas, Dão, Douro, and Vinho Verde—and purchases grapes from more than 2 120 growers in the country. This unusual year and the diversity of sites and grape varieties, combined with the care taken in the vineyards and the attention to detail in the wineries, has produced wines of good to very good quality, which are expected to age well.

The 'Harvest Forecast' for Portugal, published by the IVV - Instituto da Vinha e do Vinho (Portuguese Vine and Wine Institute) in July, predicted a 12% increase in volume compared with 2025, representing a rise to 6.7 million hectolitres, a total that would, however, be 4% below the average for the last five years [IVV - 2006 Harvest Forecast]. Like other wine-producing countries, Portugal is experiencing increasingly frequent and devastating climatic anomalies and extreme weather events (e.g. Storm Kristin on 28 January 26). During this cycle, the very wet winter (the second wettest since 2000) and the very hot, dry spring (the fifth hottest since 1931, when meteorological records began) facilitated the healthy development of the vines and grapes. The summer was very hot and dry, although Portugal was less affected by the 'heat dome' that hit Europe hard. Heatwaves (fewer vs. 2025) had the greatest impact on the regions along the western Atlantic coast. As a result of the year's conditions, the growing cycle and ripening advanced by one to two weeks across the various regions, leading to historically early and generally dry harvests, which were affected towards the end by the hottest September since 1931. Portugal produced more wine, of good quality.

❖ Sogrape Highlights (N-S)

- **Very good quality whites and balanced production in Vinhos Verdes**
  A very wet winter, hot and drier spring and summer, early ripening, an almost dry harvest
- **Higher production volumes and good to very good quality in Douro and Porto wines**
  A very wet winter, hot spring and summer, intense ripening, and a very hot, almost dry harvest
- **Increased production and good quality wines in Dão**
  A very wet winter, hot spring and summer, rapid ripening, an almost dry harvest
- **Good quality in Bairrada, with good concentration and well-integrated freshness**
  Heavy rainfall in spring, dry heat in summer, early ripening, abundant harvest
- **Lower production volumes and very good quality whites in Bucelas**
  A very wet winter, hot spring and summer with heat spikes, rapid ripening, an almost dry harvest
- **Very good quality wine and balanced production in Alentejo**
  A very rainy winter, hot and dry spring and summer, ideal ripening conditions, dry harvest

❖ Vinhos Verdes

Diogo Sepúlveda, Director of Winemaking at Quinta de Azevedo, says that *"2026 is, without a doubt, a harvest that leaves us very satisfied and with excellent expectations for how the wines will develop."*

No two years are the same, and Diogo recalls that the start of this year was quite rainy (replenishing water reserves and creating good conditions for the vineyards' development throughout the growing season), whilst the mild temperatures for much of the year, combined with the availability of water in the soil, allowed for very balanced vegetative growth and vigorous, healthy vines. "*This well-developed leaf area was crucial to preserving the freshness and fruit character we seek in Quinta de Azevedo wines."* Loureiro and Alvarinho, the two grape varieties grown at Quinta de Azevedo, reached the ripening stage with *"excellent yields and in very good health"*.
The hot summer ended up bringing the grape harvest forward by around one week; it began with the Alvarinho harvest, followed by the Loureiro, a naturally cooler-climate grape variety that ripens later.
"The results are very positive, both in terms of production and, above all, quality", says Diogo, emphasising that *"the wines display excellent aromatic intensity, great freshness and very well-balanced acidity—characteristics that point to a year of great potential for Quinta de Azevedo"*.

Quinta de Azevedo is situated near Barcelos, approximately 20 km from the sea on the region's Atlantic coast. Only white grape varieties are grown here—Loureiro (20.2 ha), Alvarinho (12.8 ha), and 0.9 ha in terraces with a mix of varieties (field blend).
The heavy rainfall from October until the start of spring put the team on alert for fungal diseases (downy mildew and powdery mildew), but ultimately the risk was lower, as this year's rainfall was concentrated in winter and then eased. With plenty of water in the soil and dry, mild conditions, the vines got off to an early start (good budburst, flowering and fruit set) and, overall, the growing cycle was brought forward by 1–2 weeks. There were fewer preventive treatments and weed control cuts, and the targeted, timely interventions made the plants more resilient to several days of intense heat in July and August (+41.3°C, 4 July). João Porto, the estate's Director of Viticulture, says that, all in all, it was *"a pleasant year"*, and the grapes produced were of good quality. The harvest began around 10 days earlier than in 2025 and took place in good weather, apart from the rain during the second week of the harvest (approx. 90 mm, 23–27 August), which caused no damage. The Loureiro grapes still on the vine were harvested once the good weather had allowed them to finish ripening – *"we knew they were in good condition and could hang on"*. The estate's grape harvest took place between 17 August and 7 September, before the winery stopped accepting grapes from growers (11 September). Signs of the times: in the recent past, this date would have marked the opening of the winery's doors and the start of the harvest...
In July, the region was forecasting a global harvest with a 6% increase in production and high quality. Compared with 2025, Sogrape saw an increase in volumes: +23.1% in its own production and 26.3% in purchased volumes.

❖ Douro

Luís Sottomayor, Director of Winemaking for Sogrape's Douro and Port wines, is pleased with the result and says that *"wines ranging from good to very good quality have been produced across all styles and throughout the region"*.

The year's conditions (a wet winter, with a hot, dry spring and summer, and rain in late August) accelerated ripening, bringing everything to maturity very quickly. Luís notes that 2026 was one of the earliest harvests he can remember, on a par with 1995, and that, unlike other years, *"we had harvests taking place at the same time in both the lower and higher-altitude vineyards, and right across the region"*.
The harvest for the white wines began on 12 August and, despite the heat, *"they display freshness and balance, with a structured palate; not overly aromatic, but with great intensity."* The rosés are very good, *"with a very good profile, harvested at just the right time"*, before the rain. The reds are *"very clean and sound, with good structure and elegance"*.
The very rapid ripening affected the quality slightly, *"something was missing, despite the high sugar levels"*, but the rain at the end of August brought the grapes back into balance and slowed the ripening process down a little.

After the rain, everything picked up pace, and the very hot, dry September led to extremely rapid and intense concentration, particularly towards the end of the harvest, *"the likes of which I haven't seen for many years—perhaps in 1989, but in October! We are going to balance it out through blending with wines from higher-altitude, cooler areas"*.
The old vines performed very well and, as they are made up of grape varieties that ripen quickly, were harvested early [e.g. the old vineyard that produces 'Legado' was picked entirely in August, in three passes over the course of a week, compared to the usual three picks over 15 days]. This satisfaction extends to Port wines and, as Luís says, *"those from Quintas do Seixo, Porto, Caêdo and Vau are also very good"*. He also notes that, *"once again, in hot years such as this one (and 2017), Sograpе's estates have shown that they are better able to withstand difficult conditions thanks to the work carried out in the vineyards, and that is where we will source to achieve greater quality"*.
All in all, Luís concludes that no particular sites or grape varieties stood out; *"they were all good, right across the region"*, and his quality assessment applies equally to both Douro and Port wines.

Sograpе has over 600 hectares of vineyards in Douro, with a wide variety of growing conditions (climate, topography, altitude, aspect, soils, grape varieties, cultivation practices), ranging from young plantings to several very old vines. Compared with the region's climatological norm (CN), the winter was rainier, whilst the spring and summer were hotter and drier, despite a few spells of rain. Famed for the beauty of its vineyards (including Sograpе's estates), Douro has the largest area of mountain vineyards in the world, but when there is heavy rainfall, the steep slopes become highly vulnerable to surface run-off and soil instability. The heavy rainfall since November had saturated the soils and caused landslides throughout the region (vineyards, embankments, walls, roads), particularly from the end of January onwards, creating risks and delaying work. José Manso, Sograpе's Director of Viticulture in Douro, says that the company's vineyards *"held up well and, in some cases, the restructuring and improved efficiency of the drainage systems minimised soil erosion"*, but in the younger, less established plots, *"some of the work from the previous year has, quite literally, been washed down the slope and will need to be redone"*.
The vineyard came to life early in the season, and produced good, healthy fruit. The grapes ripened quickly across the various altitudes and sub-regions, bringing the harvest forward by two to three weeks. The manual picking necessitated by the rugged terrain is slower and takes longer, and while it was taking place, the ripening process accelerated due to the accumulated heat (the result of the hot, dry summer and the intense heat in September). By the end of the harvest, the grapes were highly concentrated and lighter due to dehydration, with some loss of quality and yields far below initial forecasts.
Sograpе's harvest ran from 12 August to 3 October. At its four wineries in the region, it received and vinified grapes from the company's 12 estates and from 855 grape growers (both long-standing and new partners). Compared with the previous year, production volumes rose by +16.5% for the estate's own grapes and by +41.8% for purchased grapes.
In July, the region was forecasting a 25% increase in production vs. 2025 (a historically low year), with volumes down 5% compared with the five-year average.

❖ Dão

Beatriz Cabral de Almeida, winemaker at Quinta dos Carvalhais, describes it as *"a very good year, despite the heat"*.

The growing season followed an unusual pattern and saw accelerated ripening, forcing a historically early and rapid harvest. The harvest began with white grapes, which account for around 60% of the estate's vineyard area, and, despite the hot year, Beatriz is pleased with the whites – Gouveios *"aromatic, fresh and well-balanced"* and Encruzados *"subtle, with good texture and showing potential for development; we already have them in barrels"*. Of these, she notes differences between those from the more mature vineyards *("with greater concentration and more classic aromas")* and those from the younger vineyards *("with more open and lively aromas")*, a useful diversity for richer and more harmonious final blends. Almost at the same time as the whites, red grapes of the Jaen, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz varieties for rosés were harvested, *"aromatic, fruity and luscious"*.
The forecast of heavy rain in late August meant that the most sensitive red grapes had to be harvested quickly; these produced red wines *"that are very pure and representative of the grape varieties"*.

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The Alfrocheiros *"are excellent, with aromas of sous-bois, the forest and subtle fruit, and are delicate on the palate"*, while the Tinta Pinheira are *"aromatic and exuberant, with plenty of fruit, fresh and smooth"*.
Following the rains, ripening accelerated, as did the harvest, to ensure the grapes were picked in good time; the reds are showing good colour, good fruit and well-defined aromas. The Tinta Roriz are *"very well developed, with smooth tannins"*, and the Touriga Nacional show their own distinct character, with *"aromas of fruit and woodland, resin and eucalyptus"*. Of these, the Miradouro vineyard stands out; being more mature, it coped very well with the year's challenges. The Lago plots, which are typically cooler, produced more aromatic and very well-balanced wines across the various grape varieties.
All in all, and despite it being an unusual year, Beatriz is pleased and *"eager to see the finished wines"*.

At Quinta dos Carvalhais (Mangualde), the mild winter and hot spring encouraged good budburst and growth of the vines, aided by the water reserves in the soil left by the heavy rainfall, particularly up to the end of February (1,200 mm, +300% compared with 2025). Weather conditions favoured rapid plant growth; the phenological stages were brought forward by 2 to 3 weeks throughout the growth cycle, from budding and flowering through to ripening. From a phytosanitary standpoint, there was little disease pressure, due to the drier spring. The estate's 54 hectares of white and red grape varieties are dry farmed (grown without irrigation), and in a year characterised by a dry spring and summer, with days of intense heat causing some thermal stress, the care taken in the vineyard and the estate's natural conditions make all the difference. Although less consistent this year, cooler nights and early morning dew, absorbed by the soil and leaves, are typical.
The estate's harvest was brought forward once again (1 week vs. 2025), and moved more swiftly, running from 19 August to 16 September. Early ripening is welcomed in Dão, a region where rainfall around the equinox poses a risk to grapes completing their final maturation. This year, too, the rains came early, falling between 24 and 27 August, having a beneficial effect on vines that had experienced several months of hot, dry weather. After that, things moved very quickly. Although the harvest is mainly carried out by hand, mechanical harvesters proved a great help in ensuring both quality and quantity at the right time. To sum up, João Porto, the estate's Director of Viticulture, describes it as an *"unusual and early year, which produced good, healthy fruit and showed the diversity and varied performance of our grape varieties and plots"*.
The estate's winery vinifies grapes from Sograpе's own vineyards alongside fruit from 133 grape growers from whom the company purchases grapes and whom it supports throughout the year. Compared with 2025, the region was forecasting a 5% increase in production and high quality. Production at Quinta dos Carvalhais increased by 38.3% for its own grapes, thanks to the improving performance of the younger vineyards, and by 6.1% for purchased grapes.

❖ Bucelas

Luís Cabral de Almeida, the Director of Winemaking responsible for the wines at the historic, 300-year-old Quinta da Romeyra in Bucelas, gives a positive assessment of the year, "*a very good quality harvest"*, despite the lower yield.

Regarding the growing cycle, Luís points out that the good water reserves left by the wet winter "*allowed for the growth of tall, vibrant green canopies"*, which are essential for the plants' healthy development. This, combined with low pressure from fungal diseases, downy mildew and powdery mildew, helped to produce very well-balanced, healthy grapes that ripened more quickly.
The harvest was carried out entirely by hand and began a week earlier than in 2025, starting with the grapes used for sparkling base wines. The Arinto grape variety, emblematic of Bucelas, accounts for almost the entire vineyard at the estate, and, when assessing these whites, Luís reveals that *"this year we have greater aromatic intensity, with more refined aromas and, generally speaking, more elegant wines"*.
The estate boasts a wide variety of conditions (soils, altitudes, aspects, slopes) and includes young, recently converted vineyards, which produce different styles of Arinto, but Luís has no doubts—*"in terms of quality, the traditional plots continue to produce the most exceptional wines"*. He reflects, *"these wines are developing very positively and we have high expectations, but we must wait to see how they evolve"*.

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Located in Bucelas, Lisboa, Quinta da Romeyra (its historical name) is first mentioned in records dating back to 1218 and formed part of the *morgado* established in honour of Catarina de Bragança in 1703. Since its acquisition in 2019, Sogrape has been restoring the estate and re-establishing its role as the guardian of Bucelas wines and their signature grape variety, Arinto. In 2026, work continued on the estate's in situ ampelographic collection of over 500 clones of the variety (initiated in 2025 and set for completion in 2027), alongside the planting of a polyclonal plot of Arinto designed to enhance its resilience to climate change, among other objectives.
João Porto, Sogrape's Director of Viticulture in the region, speaks of a *"very demanding but rewarding year"*, and points out that the estate *"has a wide variety of soil types with low structural stability, making them vulnerable to erosion"*. This winter and early spring were exceptionally wet; for months the ground was like *"quicksand"*, making it difficult for both workers and machinery to get through (*"they got stuck"*). Work on the current 42 hectares of vines in production was limited and progressed slowly, not least because much of it could only be done by hand (e.g. ongoing weed control and cutting). João notes that, in the future, the new layout of the restructured vineyards will help to control and manage the speed and erosive impact of runoff (e.g. shorter vine rows running diagonally to the contour lines to break up and reduce water flows), and that tailored cultivation practices will continue to help stabilise the soil (e.g. plant cover, *"with excellent results"*).
In early July, a couple of intense heat days and nights (max. 39°C, min. 27°C) affected some of the vines, which, being accustomed to the milder climate of the Atlantic coast (the estate is 25 km from the sea), saw some grapes "cook" or "scorch", but the overall damage was limited. The harvest ran from 17 August to 10 September, with grapes sourced from both the estate and local growers. Production fell by 15.2% for grapes grown on the estate, and by 36% for purchased grapes.
In July, the IVV estimated a 7% increase in production compared with 2025 for the wider Lisboa region (which includes Bucelas), with this total being 4% below the average for the last five years.

❖ Alentejo

Luís Cabral de Almeida, Sogrape's Director of Winemaking for Alentejo, is very pleased with the 2026 harvest, *"a year that was generous in terms of both quality and quantity"*, across the region as a whole and for the company's estates.

Herdade do Peso is located in Vidigueira, a sub-region with a long-standing tradition of whites, and Sogrape's white wines *"have got off to a flying start"*. The Verdelhos were the first to be harvested and are full of *"elegance, finesse and vibrancy"*, matched by the Arintos, which are *"outstanding, fresh and lively"*. Luís also highlights the potential of select Alentejo whites, evident in the high quality of the wines from old vines in Portalegre, to the North, that will excel in the "Série Ímpar Retorto".
At the Herdade, red grapes predominate (140 ha out of the 160 ha planted). Depending on the grape variety and conditions (plot, trellising system, pruning, irrigation, vine age etc.), they have matured steadily and provided diversity. Picked early, the Aragonez variety yielded *"fresh, delicious rosés"*. As for reds, Luís feels that the overall quality consistency of Alicante-Bouschets has been reinforced, *"particularly the wine from bush vines, which is more precise and elegant"*, confirming that reverting to the traditional training system in parts of the vineyards planted in 2020 was the right decision. These grapes *"reached an extraordinary balance between potential alcohol and phenolic maturity earlier, and the wines are taut, full of flavour, with fresher fruit, vibrant acidity and more moderate alcohol levels"*.
As for other reds, the Tinta Miúda *"once again demonstrated its freshness, which is important for blends"*, whilst the Petit Verdot reinforced its adaptability to the sub-region, producing *"wines with great complexity"*, and Touriga Nacional was able to *"show its elegant yet structural side"*, with fine, persistent acidity.
In short, Luís says that *"the wines have got off to a good start and are of very good quality, but we have to wait and see how they develop"*.

At Herdade do Peso, the cycle was favourable—the wet winter left water reserves *"the likes of which had not been seen for a long time"*, while spring and summer, with hot days balanced by cool nights, encouraged healthy vine development and good canopy density. The dry conditions, with no prolonged heatwaves (only one week in July and another in August were hotter than usual), prevented fungal diseases and attacks by pests such as spider mites and leafhoppers.

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João Porto, Sogrape's Director of Viticulture for Alentejo, gives a positive assessment of the year, which *"enabled us to carry out work and help establish the more recent vineyards"* (40 ha, 2020), including 8.5 ha trained as bush vines (or "goblet"), planted with traditional grape varieties such as Antão Vaz, Alicante Bouschet, Tinta Miúda and Grand Noir.
Most of the estate's grapes are machine-harvested at night, but the bush vines and a few selected plots are hand-picked into 20 kg crates and kept in cool rooms for vinification the following day. Harvest began a week earlier than in 2025, running from 29 July to 17 September in fine weather.
Sogrape saw a 39.2% increase in the volume of its own production, and a 13.5% rise in grapes purchased from growers in the region. In July, Alentejo was forecasting a 15% increase compared with the previous year (when production was below average), representing an 11% decrease compared with the five-year average.

❖ Other regions—Bairrada and Trás-os-Montes

Diogo Sepúlveda, the board member responsible for winemaking at Sogrape in Portugal, takes stock of the year.

Bairrada is a key source of Sogrape's flagship wines, produced from the company's own grapes and those of an extensive network of growers with whom the company has long-standing relationships. As in other regions of Portugal, thanks to a growing cycle characterised by heavy rainfall in winter, hot, dry weather in spring and summer, and the absence of disease, 2026 was an early vintage, and produced grapes in excellent health. Sogrape's Quinta de Pedralvites (Anadia) is dominated by white grape varieties, including the rare Sercialinho grape variety, from which an eponymous single-varietal "Série Ímpar" range. Overall, the region's harvest progressed at a good pace, and *"the quality assessment is very positive, with wines showing good concentration and well-integrated freshness"*, says Diogo. Across the region, Sogrape vinified 6,592 tonnes of grapes, representing an increase of 25.8% over 2025 and 13.7% above the 2022–2025 average. Estate production totalled 283 tonnes, whilst the 510 supplier vineyards provided 6,310 tonnes (95.7% of the total volume vinified). Diogo points out that *"the scale of this network of growers is particularly significant for Mateus, whose production combines fruit sourced from both Bairrada and Trás-os-Montes"*.

The situation in **Trás-os-Montes**, however, painted a different picture, notes Diogo. The heat here also brought the grape harvest forward by around a week, but it had a negative impact on yields. However, "*the grapes arrived at the winery in excellent condition"*. At Sogrape's winery in Bemposta, 4,664 tonnes were received from 592 suppliers. Owing to the vintage conditions, volumes fell by 15.7%, but the region plays a crucial role in the winery's supply and in the production of Mateus.

In 2026, 11,257 tonnes of grapes were vinified at Sogrape's wineries in Anadia and Bemposta, +4.5% compared with 2025 and +2.2% above the 2022–2025 average, sourced from more than 1,100 suppliers. Diogo notes that this scale reflects the importance of the operation for the brand, and the decisive role played by these two regions and their respective grape-growing communities. Taken together, he concludes, these two regions make for *"a very positive assessment of 2026—grape quality and excellent grape health in Bairrada and Trás-os-Montes, a large-scale operation, and a close relationship with more than 1,000 growers, all of which are fundamental to ensuring the consistency and signature style of Mateus"*.

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