



Roquevale

Joana Roque Du Vale

(zhoo-AH-na ROKE-du-VAHL-ay)



LOCATION

Évora, Portugal.
(Redondo)
185 hectares. 320 - 460 meters.



ESTATE

Roquevale.
(roke-VAHL-ay)



WINEMAKER

Joana Roque Du Vale.
(zhoo-AH-na ROKE du VAHL-ay)



ENOLOGIST

Joana Roque Du Vale.
(zhoo-AH-na ROKE du VAHL-ay)



ENVIRO-COMMITMENT

Hand-harvested.
No irrigation.



ESTATE PRODUCTION

8,000 cases.



PARTNERSHIP

Joana has been part of the Small
Vineyards family since 2008.

Located in the south of Portugal, Roquevale specializes in local varietals made into classically styled wines. From perhaps the country's greatest woman winemaker, Joana Roque Du Vale, these vines are just minutes from the sea, and have ideal climactic conditions for growing wines of expression, power, and nuance. Working on their organic certification, Roquevale is breaking new ground in Europe's hottest up and coming wine zone. Although Roquevale is a larger-sized estate, Joana crafts wines from individual crus, making small batches as unique from one another as snowflakes. "I believe that every hill tastes different," says Joana. "For other foods, location matters less. But for wine, it is the most important thing, maybe everything – because place determines the grape, the ripeness, the acidity, the character, everything. A winemaker must have an acute sensitivity to place – if not, we are not making wine. We are making something else." And what a place she has! With large chunks of schist rock, it is reminiscent of Porto, or even Priorat in Spain, two appellations with world-famous, distinct winemaking terrain. For our money, few places are capable of making wines with more character, expression and moxie for the money than Alentejo, Portugal. Just a stiff breeze from Morocco, the south's best wine zone delivers a veritable treasure chest of organoleptic gifts – fragrant prunes, salted almond, pepper jellies and sweet marmalade, and the stinging, bright briny-ness of the warm Mediterranean – all fill your glass, along with delicious, ripe fruit.

