

NO ADELAIDE, YET AGAIN



QUINTA DO
VALLADO

We hereby give notice that, much to the dismay of its admirers, with two votes cast against and

one for, Quinta do Vallado's Adelaide red 2014 will spend another year in our cellars.

Extracted from vines over a hundred years old, growing in a small plot on a slope overlooking the Rio Torto (one of the Douro's tributaries), this rare red is in fine fettle; very concentrated, full-bodied, elegant and fresh with silky tannins and a long finish, which is to be expected from a grand vin from the Douro.

Despite this, the great-great-great-grandson who voted against is convinced the wine will be that bit closer to perfection if it spends more time in the dark comfort of the cellars. The decision, which was taken in January and re-confirmed in April, will be reviewed at the end of the year.

There is little else to say or do, apart from wait. Wait for the great-great-great grandchildren of Dona Antónia Adelaide Ferreira, the great 19th-century pioneer and entrepreneur, reformer and reinventor of the Douro, to agree about the launch date.

As tradition dictates, the decision must be unanimous: either the three agree or the wine stays put. All it takes is one vote against, a slight disagreement (a gut-feeling, some slight irritation, a state of mind, sulkiness), for there to be no Adelaide. Whatever the decision, nobody needs to explain themselves nor try to convince the others. The process is antiquated, hailing from a more patient age, when there was greater

respect for time and less reverence for the gods of market place.

Truth be told, the entire production of the Adelaide red pays little heed to modern business sense.

The vines were discovered by the great-great-great grandchildren, long forgotten in a hard-to-reach ravine, where work is costly. They are very, very old and provide no more than 500 grams of fruit per plant, yielding just 4,000 bottles. Because of the decision-making process, these are always slow to reach the market. It is all very antiquated, all rather unique. But it does produce fabulous wines. Although not this year. This year, there's no Adelaide.

