

Travel: Driving northern Portugal's wine route

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Explore Portugal's largest wine region by car on the Vinho Verde wine route, stretching from Porto to the northern Spanish border – stopping off at six wineries along the way...



Discover the medieval towns, sprawling green vineyards and world-class wines along the Vinho Verde wine route... Credit: Maurício Abreu / Alamy

Northern Portugal road trip: Vinho Verde wine route

Picturesque medieval towns surrounded by vineyards make the Portugal's northern region of **Vinho Verde** the ideal destination for a wine lovers' road trip.

With more hectares under vine than anywhere else in country, the Vinho Verde route is a great choice for those who want to get to the heart of Portuguese wine. Vineyard visits and tasting rooms are plentiful along the way, not to mention a choice of local or deluxe restaurants and hotels.

Melgaço

One hour north, in the direction of the Spanish border, you'll get to **Monção e Melgaço**, the northernmost sub-region of Vinho Verde, and home to the fine Alvarinho variety.

More protected from maritime influence than other sub-regions, thanks to the surrounding hills, the combination of grape and climate creates richer, fuller, subtly complex wines.

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In Melgaço, **Quinta de Soalheiro** is an innovator with **Alvarinho** and leads the region with some of the best examples of fresh, focused and ageworthy whites, including organic and natural versions of Alvarinho.



Quinta de Soalheiro, Monção e Melgaço, Primeiras Vinhas

Star buy of 2015 Clean, expressive apricot and peach aromas. Very aromatic and classic with a broad, full, herbal palate and a rounded finish. A solid Alvarinho.

Complex pithy orange, honeysuckle, silky peach, savoury lees and nutty nougat; dancing acidity and minerality dominate a long finish.



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€ 14.00

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