Another take on Alvarinho

There seems to be no stopping Soalheiro when it comes to creating different wines from the Alvarinho grape variety. It was not so long ago that their portfolio featured just their main range Alvarinho label, the excellent barrel-aged Reserva and, what few and many who have been considering to be one of the best Portuguese white wines, their Primarias Vinhas.

When wine writer Justine Hotten was asked to select her top 10 Portuguese white wines last month, Soalheiro’s Primarias Vinhas was the only white wine she included in the line-up.

Soalheiro can arguably be considered one of the top producers of Alvarinho. Today, the portfolio includes no less than eight entirely different whites made from the grape, showing just how versatile the variety can be, not to mention their sparkling wines and an unusual red, made from a local red grape blended with Alvarinho.

Amongst their most recent wines, first produced from the 2016 vintage, is Soalheiro Granit, made from wines at higher altitude with, as the name suggests, granite-rich soil. This is the driving force behind Soalheiro’s Granit, but it is wine of some complexity with good body in the mouth and citrus/tropical fruit notes on the nose and palate. The minerality of the soil lends the wine a stony finish and vibrant acidity. Like most good Alvarinhos, it is well suited to bottle ageing – £12.95 in Apoiroia.