

Soalheiro: Velhos Mestres, novos vinhos verdes

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If a symbol were needed about how much Vinho Verde has changed in the last decade, the left hand bottle – Quinta de Soalheiro Oppaco Tinto 2013 – would be it. It is this top Alvarinho Vinho Verde producer's first ever red wine – in 37 years! And, judging by the bottle weight, it's going to be a good deal more expensive than fellow top Vinho Verde/Alvarinho producer Anselmo Mendes' Pardusco – itself, a revolutionary wine in the (red) Vinho Verde stakes, the first made in 2012.

I liked the Oppaco, but Soalheiro's newest Alvarinho cuvée -Terramatter – really blew me away, as did

Below are my notes on this trio, alongside Soalheiro's "regular" top cuvées which, for the whites, made for an interesting contrast. Whilst they are in the frame it's worth noting that both producers have really ramped up their oeno-tourism offer in the last year. Within easy reach of Oporto, they (and this picturesque, very traditional region) are definitely worth a visit. Check their

