

Neil Fairlamb discovers Tejo's wines and goes to the Vinipax wine fair in Alentejo, 4th-8th October 2011

The private estate Alorna produces quite outstanding wines on predominantly sandy soils. The blockbuster barrique Chardonnay, Marquesa de Alorna Reserva 2009, was to win the best white award at the Vinipax show but the estate had a very acceptable white blend of Arinto and Fernão Pires at 2.5€ and a delicious rosé, 100% from Touriga Nacional, made from free-run juice. However, the two reds were absolutely outstanding to me: a 2009 blend of Castelão, Tinta Roriz, Alicante Bouschet and Syrah, 100% in French oak for a year, was an expressively ripe-textured bargain at 5.5€ and the Reserva 2008 with Touriga Nacional and Cabernet very authoritative. Polished oak ageing, ripe fruit, ripe tannins: super wines at the prices.

Neil Fairlamb

Independent Wine and Spirits Professional - UK