



Vila Nova

Douro | Vinho Verde
PORTUGAL



Bernardo Lencastre, sister Luisa, father Luis Lencastre (the actual Baron of Varzea do Douro), sister Sofia and brother Filipe

The esteemed Lencastre family, direct descendants of the Royal Family of Portugal, Antonio Pinot Garces Mandureira, who was named the First Barão da Varzea do Douro by Portugal's Queen Maria II on July 16, 1846. The family's royal residence is Vila Nova, near the town of Penafiel which is close to the eastern border in Portugal's Vinho Verde wine region. The estate has been in the family since the 12th century. The only remnant of that time is an ivy-covered stone tower that was built in the 1700's is now totally surrounded by Vila Nova, the new estate house.

In the late 1970s, the family planted white grape vines over 29 acres, mostly the native Portuguese varietals that are most often used in Vinho Verde wines – Loureiro, Arinto, Avesso and Trajudura. In 2003, Bernardo Lencastre, who will be the Fifth Baron in the family, took over the property with his siblings. He spearheaded revitalization efforts, restoring Vila Nova into the showplace it is today.

