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Tagus Creek

CLOSER TO HOME

Try Alentejo's wines

Tinto da Ânfora 2006, Alentejo (£6.49; Majestic, Sainsbury's, Waitrose)

Reflecting Portugal's array of several hundred indigenous varieties, this has no less than six grape varieties. Mildly rustic with black cherries and brambles, and a fine, leathery, smoky, savoury undertone.



Cortes de Cima Syrah 2005, Alentejo (£9.99; Waitrose)

This was a pioneering project by former sugar planter Hans Jorgensen and his wife Carrie, now it's an established classic. Their estate produces fine syrah (aka shiraz) – black fruit with white pepper spice.



Tagus Creek Shiraz-Trincadeira 2008, Alentejo (£5.99; Booth's, Morrisons)

The Tagus Creek brand is a collection of fruity wines that shows the Alentejo's mix of modernity and quirkiness. This blend of an international variety (shiraz) with a local makes for a brilliant value, sunny red.



Sainsbury's Premium Portuguese Red, Alentejo (£4.49)

The Alentejo has traditionally produced reliable supermarket wines year in, year out as this dark and fruity red shows. It proves there's potential if only Portugal could get more space on wine shelves.



Marquês de Borba 2008, Alentejo (£7.95; tanners-wines.co.uk)

To track down Portuguese treats it can be necessary to go online. This is a white blend that includes the local 'sheep's tail' (rabo de ovelha) grape variety and is given a bit of class with some smoky oak.



Sarah Jane Evans is a Master of Wine