

1997



Founded in 1820 by William and John Graham in Portugal's Douro Valley, for two centuries Graham's has cultivated its reputation as one of the greatest names in Port. The quality of Graham's Port relies on the finest grapes, primarily sourced from five iconic quintas in the Douro Valley: Quinta dos Malvedos, Quinta do Tua, Quinta das Lages and two others, Quinta da Vila Velha and Quinta do Vale de Malhadas, which are privately owned by members of the Symington family.

THIS VINTAGE PORT REMINDS ME OF THE UNIQUENESS OF OUR FAMILY BUSINESS, ALL THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE THAT HAD BEEN HANDED DOWN TO US OVER GENERATIONS

#### THE YEAR

January 1997 at Malvedos was extremely cold and most unusually snow covered the vineyard right down to the riverside. A wet spring followed with cooler than normal temperatures between May and July. Mid-August heralded the return of the customary Douro heat but rainfall at Malvedos on the 24th and 27th August was a welcome respite and refreshed the vines. High temperatures continued throughout September at the crucial time of harvesting.

#### THE WINE

This wine preserves a garnet core with a brilliant still-purple rim. Lovely fragrant nose combines herbal forest floor essence with hints of eucalyptus, mint and undertones of black cherry.

Still big and generous on the palate with finely developed red and black fruit flavours underscored by fine peppery tannins, with a deliciously long and lingering finish.

*This Vintage Port reminds me in many ways of the uniqueness of our family company: this year marks the hand-over from the 3rd to the 4th generation of our family and the quality of this great Port comes from the knowledge that had been handed down to us over generations.*

Paul Symington

#### WINE SPECIFICATION

Alcohol: 20% vol.(20°C)

Total acidity: 4.60 g/L (tartaric acid)

Baumé: 3.5

Allergy advice: Contains sulphites