

**Symington Family Estates becomes a B Corporation**

The Symingtons are the first winery in Portugal to achieve B Corp certification – joining a global movement of companies using business as a force for good.

The Symington family have announced that their family business has passed the rigorous certification process to become a B Corp, joining a global community of for-profit companies assessed for the highest standards of social and environmental performance and ethical business practices. Becoming a B Corp requires companies to change their company articles to legally oblige Directors to include social and environmental factors as equal priorities alongside financial objectives. Fellow B Corps include Patagonia, Danone, Kickstarter, Fetzer Wines, Etsy, JoJo Maman Bébé, Natura, Ben & Jerry’s, Triodos Bank & Innocent Drinks.

Rob Symington, 5th generation family member responsible for Sustainability said, “We are proud that our existing practices have earned us B Corp status. This is an important step in our ongoing commitment to maximise the positive impact we have as a company. Becoming a B Corp sets us on a journey of further changes to systematically transform our activity and ensure we are responding to the big shared challenges of our time.”

Alongside the new B Corp certification, Symington Family Estates has announced an ambitious CO2 emissions reduction goal following the measurement of their entire carbon footprint (Scopes 1-3) by Ernst & Young. Rupert Symington, CEO of Symington Family Estates, commented, “Climate change is a very real threat in the Douro Valley. Alongside our efforts to adapt in the vineyard, we are determined to play our part in the shift to a zero-carbon economy. Our first goal is to reduce our emissions by 35% between 2015 and 2025. We have already reduced them by 23% and are working on further reductions. We are committed to Portugal’s national goal of achieving carbon neutrality before 2050.”

Symington also revealed their new sustainability strategy - Mission 2025 - which includes 10 flagship goals across renewable energy, solar panels, electric cars, water and electricity efficiency, forest regeneration, low-impact packaging and local community initiatives. Four internal working groups have been formed covering 1) Viticulture & Biodiversity, 2) Water, Energy & Buildings, 3) Packaging & Waste, and 4) Team & Community.

Later this year, work will begin on a new winery at the Symington-owned Quinta do Ataíde (the largest organic vineyard in northern Portugal). Opening for the 2021 vintage, it will be the first winery in Portugal to achieve LEED certification (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) with environmental principles influencing all aspects of the design.

For more information about Mission 2025 and the B Corp certification, please consult:
[symington.com/sustainability](http://www.symington.com/sustainability.php) or [bcorporation.net](https://bcorporation.net/)

**Mission 2025**

**Goal #1 – Renewable energy**100% electricity from certified renewable energy sources. 20% generated in-house.

**Goal #2 – Electric vehicles**100% of new passenger vehicle purchases, by 2025, will be electric or hybrid.

**Goal #3 – Carbon emissions**35% reduction in CO2 emissions per litre of wine bottled (between 2015 and 2025).

**Goal #4 – Energy efficiency**10% reduction in electricity used per litre of wine bottled.

**Goal #5 – Water efficiency**10% reduction in water used in winery & bottling per litre of wine bottled.

**Goal #6 – Biodiversity support**Support major ecosystem restoration / reforestation project in Portugal.

**Goal #7 – Low-impact winery**Gold LEED (sustainable building) certification for our new winery.

**Goal #8 – Volunteering scheme**80% uptake of new employee volunteering programme.

**Goal #9 – Impact fund**Launch new Symington social & environmental impact fund.

**Goal #10 – B Corp certification**Achieve certification for highest standards of social & environmental performance.

**About Symington Family Estates**

The Symingtons of Scottish, English and Portuguese descent have been Port producers in northern Portugal since 1882. For 5 generations they have combined their passion for producing fine wines and Ports with a deep commitment to the region’s land and people. Today, ten Symingtons work across their four famous Port houses: Graham’s, Cockburn’s, Dow’s and Warre’s, as well as their Douro wine projects – Quinta do Vesuvio, Quinta do Ataíde, Altano and Prats & Symington (of Chryseia fame) – and a new venture, Quinta da Fonte Souto in the Alto Alentejo. Symington Family Estates is one of the leading premium Port producers and the family are the leading vineyard owners in the Douro, with 26 Quintas covering 2,462 hectares, of which 1,114 ha are vineyard. All their vineyards are sustainably managed under a minimum intervention certification and 130 ha are organically farmed, the largest area of organic vineyard in northern Portugal. Symington Family Estates is unique amongst the major Port companies in that each working family member farms their own vineyard, alongside those under the family’s joint company ownership. In 2019 Symington Family Estates became a certified B Corp, joining a global community of businesses audited for the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility, committed to using business as a force for good.

**For more information:**

<https://www.symington.com/>
<https://www.instagram.com/symingtonfamilyestates/>
<https://twitter.com/SymingtonFamily>

