ALTANO

NATURALMENTE

DOURO



RUPERT SYMINGTON, CEO

Rupert Symington was born in Oporto, Portugal in 1964, son of James Symington, grandson of Ronald Symington and great-grandson of Andrew James Symington, who had moved to Oporto in 1882 and entered the Port business shortly thereafter. Today, he is one of seven members of the Symington family who own and manage their Port wine business from their offices in Vila Nova de Gaia, across the river from the city of Porto.

Rupert attended the British school in Porto before completing his education at Ampleforth in Yorkshire, UK and at Merton College, Oxford. After graduating from Oxford with a degree in Mathematics, he spent five years in the City of London in investment banking and stock-broking and ended up as a financial analyst for Nomura International, producing research into listed international drinks companies.

His first work for the family business involved a six month consulting job in 1990 with the family's US importer, Premium Port Wines Inc., where he gained some useful insights into the US distribution system. It was during this time in San Francisco that he met his wife, Anne, a seventh-generation Californian.

After taking an MBA at INSEAD in France, he moved to Oporto in 1992 to join the family business on a full-time basis. Today, he is CEO of Symington Family Estates and specifically responsible for the strategic development of the Group's Douro wine sales as well as for the company's overall brand sales in North America. He also oversees all legal and financial matters for the group as well as giving direction on corporate governance.

Rupert took the opportunity to travel extensively before coming into the family firm. He spent time in South America, Australia and Africa travelling for pleasure, and has also visited most of the major wine regions of the world as a student of wine, with some early work experience in winemaking in Australia. In 2021, Rupert was named 'Entrepreneur of the Year' by Ernst & Young Portugal in recognition of his creativity, dedication, and vision for Portuguese wines in international markets. His interests outside work and family include world history, hiking and 1960's sports cars. He and his wife divide their time between their homes in Porto and at Quinta da Vila Velha in the Douro valley.