



## The Rare Wine Co.; Historic Series Madeira – Baltimore Rainwater

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***Madeira is so much more than just a wine, sometimes you're drinking history as well. The Historic Series Madeira from The Rare Wine Co. for instance, is not just a glass of Madeira, it is also an insight to America's history and the important role Madeira had in the country. That calls for a revival of a classic – the Rainwater! Please continue liking and sharing my site; for that I can't thank YOU enough!***

When it comes to Madeira, there's always an interesting story behind a name. In the case of Rainwater there are more than one. I'm discussing the matter with the world's Madeira cognoscente number one, [Mannie Berk](#), after having tasted his elegant and splendid **Baltimore Rainwater Special Reserve**.



Mannie is the owner of **The Rare Wine Co** and he has played a major role in the resurrection of Madeira in the US, by creating the **Historic Series Madeira** together with Ricardo Diogo at **Vinhos Barbeito**. Each wine is named after a, for Madeira, historically important city in the US; **Charleston Sercial**, **Savannah Verdelho**, **Boston Bual**, **New York Malmsey** and the New Orleans Special Reserve.

Berk has worked closely with Ricardo, to add yet a wine to the Historic Series - the Baltimore Rainwater Special Reserve. In our conversation, Mannie tells me that much of what has been written in the past about Rainwater is not true and with the Baltimore wine he is now trying to set the record straight, both historically and with a wine that really resembles what Rainwater was like in the past.



The **Baltimore Rainwater** is as Mannie puts it, a work in progress. The process with the next version is already ongoing. I can't help but to feel excited about the second edition because the first one impresses – a lot!

When tasting the Baltimore Rainwater, at the premises of Vinhos Barbeito in the upper parts of Câmara de Lobos, I'm struck by the elegance and concentration of the wine. Primarily a Verdelho base (80 per cent) which should reflect the main component of the first Rainwater wines, complemented by old Tinta Negra. The blend breaths of elegance, gentle oriental spices (especially ginger), toffee, hazelnuts, dried fruits and smoky minerals.

If you have tasted Rainwater before, you will primarily react when you have the Baltimore version in the mouth. The concentration in this one is by far the most impressive I've tasted. Again, elegant, almost leaning towards ethereal. Ginger,

coffee, vanilla and nutmeg. Wet rocks minerality, dried fruits in this medium-dry and oh so pure wine. Long finale with a lingering acidity. This is one heck of a Rainwater!



*View from Vinhos Barbeito*

So, the story behind Rainwater? As Mannie Berk tells me, some gives the credit to a wine merchant in Savannah after the Civil War; a fact that Mannie says is an impossibility since Rainwater existed already fifty years before that. Then there's the forgotten barrel at a beach, that when found (and tasted) should have been the start of Rainwater in the 1700s.

Do you want to know more about Rainwater, how Mannie Berk and Ricardo Diogo reasoned when creating a wine that should resemble the once most prestigious Madeira in some parts of the US – and perhaps even buy and taste it? Then sign up for [The Rare Wine Co's Newsletter](#) and soon you will find out much more on the subject!

*The MAM Opinion:*

**FORMIDABLE**

*N.B. Just like the other wines in the Historic Series, this one is as well Canteiro aged.*