



Great Port vintage to wash down Portugal's 2011 woes

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By Andrei Khalip

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(Reuters) - It was a horrible year of debt crisis and an international bailout for [Portugal](#), but 2011 turned out to be nothing short of a miracle year for the country's best known product: port [wine](#).

After a tasting session on Friday attended by dozens of international experts, the crimson-robed Port [Wine](#) Brotherhood that counts among its members all major port producers and merchants as well as kings and heads of state, proclaimed 2011 a Vintage Year, the first since 2007.

"It is one of the largest Port vintage declarations ever, but more importantly it is one of the best years in terms of quality that has the critics exalting the wines, a lot more than in 2007," said Manuel Cabral, president of the Institute of the Douro and Port Wines.

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