

Finca la Cuesta 2005



Winery: Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide

Region: Bierzo D.O.

Grapes: 100% Mencia

Winery: Alejandro Luna is the owner of this moderately sized estate. Born in Ponferrada he spent 10 year from the age of 16 to 26 in Madrid studying toward his Bachelor's and Law degrees. After finishing his academic work, he came to work as director for the family winery in 2001 which was started in 1987.

The philosophy of the winery is to produce wines based on quality of and respect for the land, primarily from native grapes along with grapes from other parts of the world. 70 hectares of vines are planted between 450 and 900 meters, on south facing slopes in calcerous clay or decomposed slate. Vines range in age from 20 years for foreign grapes to 60 years for Mencia. 5 Hectare are used for experimental vineyards looking at how foreign grapes take to Bierzo's climate; they are planted with about 30 varieties including Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir, Macabeo, Albariño and Sauvignon Blanc. No herbicides or pesticides are used on the vineyards.

Wine: Fruit for this wine is sourced from a single steeply-sloped, south-facing vineyard in Villafranca de Bierzo. The vineyard is between 700-800 meters in elevation and is planted to 60 year old vine Mencia. The soils are comprised of Bierzo's two main soil types, decomposed slate and limestone based clay. Following fermentation with natural yeasts in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks, the wine was aged for 16 months in 75% French and 25% American oak barrels. Bottled unfiltered.

Reviews:

“The 2005 Finca la Cuesta is 100% Mencia sourced from a single vineyard with 60 year old vines. It was fermented with native yeasts and aged for 16 months in French and American oak before being bottled without filtration. It is more expressive aromatically than its younger sibling with notes of cedar, pencil lead, mineral, and blueberry. Supple and racy on the palate, it is already revealing some complexity as well as a lengthy finish. Drink it over the next 6-8 years.”

90 points *Wine Advocate* issue 178 August '08



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