

Finca la Cuesta 2007



Winery: Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide

Region: Bierzo D.O.

Grapes: 100% Mencía

Winery: Alejandro Luna is the owner of this moderately sized estate. Born in Ponferrada he spent 10 years 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 calcareous clay or decomposed slate. Vines range in age from 20 years for foreign grapes to 60 years for Mencía. 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 Mencía. The soils are comprised of Bierzo's two main soil types, decomposed slate and limestone based clay. Following fermentation with native yeasts in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks, the wine was aged for 10 months in 75% French and 25% American oak barrels. Bottled unfiltered.

Reviews:

"it reveals a complex aromatic array of mineral, scorched earth, spice box, pomegranate, and black cherry. This leads to a smooth-textured, suave wine with tons of fruit, excellent density, and enough structure to evolve for 2-3 years. Drink this nicely rendered wine through 2017."

Top 100 Spanish Wine Values

90 points *Wine Advocate* issue 181 February '09

"Balanced and harmonious, this elegant red shows black cherry, mineral, licorice and mountain herb flavors, supported by ripe tannins and fresh acidity." **A Wine Spectator Insider**, January 6, 2010

91 points *Wine Spectator* March 2010

"A winner and a fine value from Bierzo. Luna Beberide is a model producer, and this single-vineyard wine has a pretty nose of berry, mineral, bacon and herbs. The palate is exceedingly smooth and lush, while the ripe boysenberry and blackberry flavors are classy and finish well. What Mencía from Bierzo is all about."

91 points *Wine Enthusiast* April 2010



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