

Luna Beberide Mencia 2008



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 years, from the age of 16 to the age of 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.

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 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. 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.

Winemaking starts with all grapes being hand harvested into 18 kilo boxes. Careful cluster sorting, eliminating unsound bunches continues the push toward quality. All varietals are fermented separately with native yeasts prior to aging in oak barrels. All of the wines are bottled unfiltered.

Wine: The grapes come from vineyards, oriented south, planted in calcareous clay at 750 meters above sea level, with an average age of the vines of 20 years old. Harvested by hand the first week of October with yields between 25 to 30 hectoliters/hectare. Fermented in stainless steel vats and bottled unfiltered.

Reviews:

“The 2008 Mencia. It was raised in stainless steel and bottled without filtration. Dark ruby-colored, it reveals an enticing perfume of spicy black fruits. Concentrated and rich on the palate, it is dense and packed with spicy, savory fruit. It is likely to evolve for another 1-2 years and develop additional complexity although it can be enjoyed now. It is a sensational value.”

90+ points *Wine Advocate* issue 188 April 2010

“Bierzo for the summer: This is all crunchy red fruit and fresh notes of spice, an herbal hint to the tannin balanced by juicy acidity. Pour it with meat empanadas.”

90 points *Wine & Spirits* October 2010



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