

Luna Beberide Mencia 2009



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 calcereous 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.

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 between 25 and 30 year 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 perennial Best Buy, the Luna Beberide Mencia, is unoaked 2009 Mencia and was bottled without filtration. Purple in color with an expressive, already complex bouquet of earthy minerals, Asian spices, incense, and black raspberry, this savory, ripe, balanced effort is a crowd-pleaser that will drink well for another 3-4 years. As usual, it is an outstanding value.

Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide is an excellent source of value-priced wines from the increasingly fashionable DO of Bierzo.”

90 points *Wine Advocate* issue 195 June 2011



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