

# Luna Beberide Merlot 2003



**Winery:** Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide

**Region:** Bierzo - VdT de Castilla y Leon

**Grapes:** 100% Merlot

**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 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. 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:** Inspired by the quality of the Merlot grown by a selection of 20 year old vines planted from the Finca Acerol vineyard between 500-700 meters elevation and yielding 20-25 hectoliters/hectare. Soils in the vineyard are white clay and decomposed slate. This wine is a selection of the 5 most concentrated barrels of Merlot and is the pinnacle of quality for international grapes at the estate. The clusters are hand sorted then destemmed prior to a 3 day cold soak, fermentation progresses with native yeast, 2-3 pump overs per day, aged 16 months in new French oak (Taransaud and Segin Moreau), egg white fined, unfiltered.

## Reviews:

“A saturated purple color, the wine coats the glass with glycerin. The splendid nose offers up smoke, toast, espresso roast, and black currants. This is followed by a mouth-filling wine with beautiful focus and balance. There are layers of spicy black fruit flavors, ripe tannin, and terrific concentration. This is a Merlot that would make many producers in Pomerol very proud. It merits 4-6 years of cellaring and should provide hedonistic drinking through 2025.”

**92 points** *Wine Advocate* issue 169 February '07

“Deep ruby. Seductively perfumed nose offers a sexy array of red and dark berries, Asian spices and minerals. Brisk, sharply focused raspberry and cherry flavors are complicated by fresh violet and graphite. Reminds me of a suave syrah. Finishes with impressive lift and thrust. This uncommonly sweet and powerful merlot is balanced to repay cellaring.”

**92 points** *International Wine Cellar Online Article*, September '07



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