

Tierras de Luna 2005



Winery: Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide

Region: Bierzo - VdT de Castilla y Leon

Grapes: 50% Mencia, 30% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon

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. 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: Merlot and Cabernet are 27 year old vines and Mencia are 60 year old vines. Yields range between 25-30 hectoliters/hectare. The vineyard is planted between 650 to 750 meters above sea level in calciferous clay and decomposed slate. The wine was aged for 16 months in 80% French oak and 20% American oak barrels from the finest tonnelieres. After the wines were aged in the barrel, they were fined using egg whites before being bottled unfiltered.

Reviews:

“This is Luna Beberide’s “kitchen sink” blend consisting of Mencia, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine has blackberry and violet aromas, and as a whole it’s inviting and smooth. Flavors of berry fruit are solid but modest, while herbal accents and baking spice notes jazz things up.”

87 points *Wine Enthusiast* June ‘09

“This wine, crafted by Luna Beberide (a highly noteworthy Bierzo producer) shows lots of elegance and class. The fruit is medium-bodied, with very pretty notes of red and black cherries accented with just a light whiff of toasty oak. The tannins are apparent, lending grip to the finish, but they impart almost no astringency, and are perfectly weighted to the fruit. Although this 2005 vintage has already had a few years to develop, it is still full of primary fruit, and will certainly become more complex and interesting as it ages, and will not likely hit its peak for another three or four years.”

89 points *Wine Review Online* July 14, ‘09



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