

# Paixar 2020 (Red Wine)



Paixar was started as a joint venture between Alejandro Luna, Gregory Perez, Eduardo and Alberto Garcia. In 2014 Alejandro Luna took control of the project and incorporated it under the umbrella of Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide. The project started with the acquisition and leasing of tiny parcels of vineyards called Paixares, old-vine, high-elevation plantings surrounded by chestnut and oak trees, in the village of Dragonte (population 60). Vines are planted directly in weathered slate of different colors and are 80+ years old; typically producing about one pound of fruit per vine.

<b>Appellation</b>	Bierzo D.O.
<b>Grapes</b>	100% Mencia, from vines averaging 80 years old
<b>Altitude / Soil</b>	700-900 metres / broken slate, no top soil
<b>Farming Methods</b>	Practicing Organic; Vegan
<b>Harvest</b>	Hand harvested into small boxes in middle of September
<b>Production</b>	Cluster sorted, destemmed and cold maceration prior to fermentation with native microbes
<b>Aging</b>	Aged for 22 months in new French oak
<b>UPC / SCC / Pack</b>	8437002954154 / 8437002954024 / 6

**Reviews:** “The 2020 Paixar is the one wine from the portfolio that is completely different from the others and comes from high-altitude vineyards in the zone of Dragonte on slate soils. In 2020 and 2021 they used the whole field blend—reds and around 5% white grapes, which might have given it an extra spark of acidity. It matured in 5,000-liter oak vat and 500-liter oak barrels. It has a perfumed nose, elegant and floral, with good ripeness but without excess. It's finely textured with a chalky thread and great balance. It finishes long and dry. This is truly superb and should evolve nicely in bottle. It's now Vino de Paraje 'A Serra' in Dragonte, a parish of Corullón. 8,000 bottles were filled in November 2021. 2023-2032.”

**96 points** *The Wine Advocate*; Luis Gutiérrez – January 2022

“The Paixar bottling is Luna Beberide’s oldest vine cuvée, as these vines are all between eighty and one hundred years of age, planted on crumbling slate soils on a steep, south-facing hillside. If memory serves me correctly, this used to see some new oak during its elevelage, but these days it is raised all in one wine casks and used foudres. The 2020 Paixar is nicely ripe at 13.5 percent octane and delivers a beautifully refined bouquet of sweet dark berries, cassis, pomegranate, tree bark, graphite, a beautiful base of slate, a bit of smoked meats, black tea, discreet botanicals and a gentle framing of cedary oak from the one-used barrels. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and youthfully structured, with a great core of fruit, firm, chewy tannins, excellent focus and grip and a long, elegant, balanced and extremely promising finish. Even though this is raised all in used wood, it still needs some bottle aging to integrate the oak completely here. Once it is ready to drink, it is going to be a great wine. 2033-2080+.”

**94+ points** *View from the Cellar*; John Gilman – Issue 98 March/April 2022

“They say that confession is good for the soul, so I should acknowledge that this is among my favorite wines in the world (I’d bet that my cellar holds more of it than anyone in the USA aside from the importer), and I have quite a soft spot for the family behind the wine. With that caveat noted, the 2020 Paixar is delicious but different than many earlier releases going back to the first vintage in 2001, showing softer texture, less overt wood even at this early stage in its development, and a more approachable character – if less seemingly age-ability. All of this is good news for those who don’t have wine cellars or sufficient patience to let wines age for 7 to 10 years from the vintage, which is when Paixar is usually hitting its stride. It is possible that I’m just catching this at in a phase when it is “open” and showy, which it is – in both aroma and flavor. Whereas this was formerly raised in just a few 500-liter new, French oak barrels, the tech sheet for this vintage indicates aging of 12 months in 5,000 liter Foudres and used – not new – 500 liter casks. Not the most powerful Paixar ever released, but a very pretty one that may hold even more potential than it is showing right now. One indication of potential is that my bottle held up extremely well over 24 hours after being opened initially, so this may have even more staying power than it is showing at this time.”

**94 points** *Wine Review Online*; Michael Franz - April 5, 2022

