

Paixar 2003



Winery: Bodegas y Vinedos Paixar

Region: Bierzo D.O.

Grapes: 100% Mencia

Winery: This is the joint venture of Alejandro Luna, Eduardo and Alberto Garcia focused on the production of a unique expression of Mencia. It started with the acquisition and leasing of tiny parcels of vineyards in the village of Dragonte (population 60) in the Bierzo region. The name Paixar comes from local oral tradition where Paixares are high old plantings of vines surrounded by chestnut and oak trees. Vines are planted directly in weathered slate of different colors and are 80+ years old; typically producing about one pound of fruit per vine. The low-vigor, old vines produce fruit with particularly concentrated aromas and powerful, fine tannins. The vineyards are between 2,500 and 3,000 feet above sea level, a key factor in the slow and even ripening of the grapes. Due to the altitude, harvest is typically 15 days later than the rest of Bierzo.

Wine: Hand-harvested into small boxes, cluster sorted, cold pre-fermentation maceration, native yeast fermentation. This wine was aged for 16 months in new French oak barrels and bottled without any filtration. Harvested at 20 hectoliters/hectare

Reviews:

“Explosively fragrant, exotic bouquet of blueberry, cherry, floral oils, cola and licorice. Firm and juicy on the palate, the dark fruit flavors energized and sharpened by mineral notes and fresh acidity. A wild blend of dark, musky fruit and earth tones and brisk minerality, with superb underlying purity and sweetness. I find this absolutely enthralling.”

92 points *International Wine Cellar* issue 128 Sept/Oct '06

“Native yeast fermentation is utilized... the wine is purple-colored with an expressive nose of smoke, vanilla, Asian spices, pencil lead, blueberry, and black cherry. On the palate the wine reveals an elegant personality and is nearly seamless. It is nicely delineated and the finish is long. It will evolve for 2-3 years but can be enjoyed now through 2015.”

92 points *Wine Advocate* issue 169 February 2007

“The 2003 Paixar has remarkable class especially considering the difficulties making wine across Europe in that hot dry year. It retains the uncanny combination of polish and power without being over-extracted or overdone. The family resemblance to the 2001 is clear.”

95 points *Wine Review Online* August 28, '07



Selected by Aurelio Cabestrero®

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