

Luna Beberide Mencía 2009



Winery: Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide

Region: Bierzo D.O.

Grapes: 100% Mencía

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 calcareous clay or decomposed slate. Vines range in age from 20 years for foreign grapes to 60 years for Mencía. 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: 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:

“Bright violet. An intensely perfumed bouquet of red berries, cherry, licorice and black pepper. Racy redcurrant and blackberry flavors gain depth and power with air, picking up a hint of blueberry. Finishes smooth and sappy, with no obvious tannins and good length. This is drinkable now.”

89 points *Wine Advocate* issue 152 Sept/Oct 2010



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