

Finca la Cuesta 2012



Winery: Bodegas y Vinedos Luna Beberide

Region: Bierzo D.O.

Grapes: 100% Mencia

Winery: Alejandro Luna is the owner of this moderately sized estate. Born in Ponferrada he spent 10 year from the age of 16 to 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. 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. 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.

Wine: Fruit for this wine is sourced from a steeply-sloped, south-facing vineyard in Villafranca de Bierzo. The vineyard is 750-800 meters in elevation and is planted to 60 year old vine Mencia. Yields are 25 hl/ha. The soils are comprised of Bierzo's two main soil types, decomposed slate and limestone based clay. Following fermentation with native yeasts in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks, the wine was aged for 12 months in 100% French oak barrels, new and 1 year old. Bottled unfiltered.

Reviews: "Brilliant, bright ruby. Sexy, mineral-laced black raspberry and potpourri scents are complemented by vanilla and allspice. Sweet, seamless and incisive, offering juicy red and dark berry flavors that fatten up and stretch out with aeration. Leads with finesse, not force, with smooth tannins adding gentle finishing grip. These vines, which are planted in a single plot, are now more than 60 years old."

91 points *Vinous Atlantic Spain January 2016*

"The wine is produced from sixty year-old vines and raised in a fifty-fifty blend of new and one wine French casks. The 2012 offers up a deep and complex nose of sweet dark berries, slate, espresso, gentle botanicals and lead pencil-like new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and complex, with a fine core, lovely Mencia poise and a long, slightly warm and discreetly tannic finish."

90+ points *View from the Cellar, Issue 61 January/February 2016*

"This firm red delivers a beam of cherry fruit, framed with smoke, licorice and mineral notes. Not a muscular wine, but has density and grip, with enough acidity for balance."

88 points *Wine Spectator Issue August 31, 2015*



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