

Finca la Cuesta 2014



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 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 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.

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 Mencía. 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: "The 2014 Finca La Cuesta is so obviously young that it almost felt like a barrel sample. It is pure Mencía that had been aged in French oak barrels for one year. It feels like a much more complete version of the 2013, solid, with better balance and incipient complexity. The palate is still marked by the élevage, but you can feel the intensity and concentration of the year coupled with nice acidity, which provides for a very good balance within its powerful profile. A very promising vintage of Finca la Cuesta. 40,000 bottles produced." **91 points** *Wine Advocate* Issue 224, April 2016



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