

Paixar 2016 (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.

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

Reviews: "Longtime readers of WRO might already be aware of my utter adoration of this wine in almost every vintage, and now that the terrific 2016 is available, you can add another vintage to the list of fantastic Paixar bottlings stretching back to the initial release from 2001. The 2016 leans a bit more toward the sleek, fresh and elegant side of the Paixar spectrum than did the 2015, but with that noted, nobody could fail to appreciate the depth and length of the flavors offered by the 2016 (thanks, no doubt, to the old vines that have always been the source for this wine). The oak is especially well integrated in this vintage, which will make it tempting early on, but the smart money will hold onto this for another five years before cracking into it. Combining the usually divergent virtues of power and intricacy, this is a complete wine of superb quality."

96 points Wine Review Online; October 29, 2019

"The brooding and perfumed 2016 Paixar is a Mencía built to last, in what seems one of its freshest and more balanced vintages. This is produced with the grapes from high-altitude vineyards on slate soils, quite different from the majority of other vineyards worked by Luna Beberide. This cuvée is a joint venture with Alberto and Eduardo García from the Mauro winery in the Duero zone. There is concentration with great elegance; the oak is still there but in the process of being absorbed by the wine (and feels less obvious than in earlier vintages), and there is great citrus freshness (think blood oranges) and balance in the palate. This is spicy and peppery and can surely be drunk now with powerful food, but it should develop further complexity with more time in bottle..." **95 points The Wine Advocate;** Issue #241 - February 28, 2019

"Bright, violet color. Sexy, deeply perfumed blackberry, cola, floral oil and incense aromas pick up a smoky mineral quality as the wine opens up. Supple, seamless and alluringly sweet, offering palate-staining black/blue fruit liqueur flavors that are complemented by suggestions of vanilla, mocha and five-spice powder. Densely packed yet lively as well, finishing with outstanding clarity and smooth, harmonious tannins..." **94 points Vinous Media;** March 2019

"Paixar is, of course, the top of the line bottling from Luna Beberide, hailing from vines that are all in excess of eighty years of age, with most of these old vines stand alone, bush vines, planted at the highest elevations in the bodegas' vineyard patrimony. It undergoes a bit of a cold soak" prior to the start of fermentation and its élevage is similar to the Art bottling, though it spends a couple more months in cask. The 2016 Paixar comes in at fourteen percent octane and offers up a super bouquet of sweet dark berries, pomegranate, licorice, cigar smoke, a very complex base of soil, tree bark and a gentle foundation of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with great mineral drive and core, tangy acids, fine focus and grip, buried, fine-grained tannins and a long, vibrant and complex finish. This is really serious juice and impressively light on its feet, given how much depth and dimension are here..." **93+ points View from the Cellar;** Issue # 85 - January/February 2020

