

Paixar 2018 (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:

“The 2018 release is an awesome rendition of Paixar, if different from many of its predecessors in showing very open bright fruit and exceptional overall freshness. Floral aromatic topnotes are both captivating and exciting when enjoyed while beholding the wine’s very deep pigmentation, as the combination of aromatic charm and muscular-looking fruit offers an initial impression of a wine promising exceptional dimension and complexity. That promise is fulfilled entirely on the palate, which offers flavors recalling black and red fruit tones as well as a blue fruit note that emerges as the wine opens in the glass. The wood component is less evident in this vintage than in some earlier ones... but it isn’t so easy to determine whether that’s because the toast level in the large casks was lower, or the wine removed earlier, or whether the fruit was just more absorptive in 2018. Be that as it may, the result is a wonderful combination of prettiness and power. The wine’s initial brightness and freshness is a bit misleading even after the wine has been well aerated, as there’s more physical density than was immediately apparent; the tears in a high-quality glass indicate the presence of plenty of glycerol, and though the wine softens with additional aeration, it actually seems to take on a bit of weight rather than lightening up as it loosens up. This is a very stylish wine that will be fascinating to watch over the years to come, but one that would be a terrific choice for current use in persuading a friend who doesn’t know about Mencia or this variety’s greatness when derived from well-tended old vines and crafted by an outstanding producer.”

Michael Franz **97 points** **Wine Review Online**; Issue - December 1, 2020

“The 2018 Paixar is all violets, wild berries and raspberry leaves, a captivating, aromatic, floral and elegant expression of old-vine Mencia from the slate soils of Dragonte (Corullón) at 700 to 950 meters in altitude. It fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and matured in 225- and 500-liter French oak barrels for 14 months. It’s all very classic, but the wine has a very modern and clean profile, a change that perhaps started with the also cooler 2016 vintage. The wine is still powerful and has energy, but there is a level of sophistication, elegance and nuance I hadn’t seen before. It’s clean and floral and has depth and nuance. But it’s on the palate and the beautifully textured mouthfeel that you see the greatness of this wine, which has all the ingredients to develop for a long time in bottle. I think this is the finest vintage of Paixar to date. 12,500 bottles produced. It was bottled in March 2020. Bravo!”

Robert Parker **96 points** **The Wine Advocate**; Issue #249 – June 2020

2018 is also a great vintage for Luna Beberide, one of the old-timers from this new Bierzo. The family winery was created back in 1989 and has 55 hectares in the village of Villafranca del Bierzo and 4.5 more in Dragonte, a parish of Corullón. Production is 350,000 bottles, so availability is quite good.

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