

# Finca la Cuesta 2011



**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:

"It has a very aromatic profile with a high-pitched minty note that is quite balsamic and attractive with incipient complexity. The palate is medium-bodied, with well-integrated oak, very fine tannins and remarkable freshness for a warm vintage like 2011. May the new label mean a new style? I like it. Very good value and textbook example of Mencía from Bierzo."

**91 points** *The Wine Advocate* Issue 216, Part 2 January 2, 2015

"Black-fruit aromas, minerality and violet scents usher in flavors of blackberry, licorice and baking spices that finish ripe and toasty. Drink through 2018."

**91 points** *The Wine Enthusiast* "Top wines of Bierzo" Issue 2709, October 2014

"Bright purple. Zesty redcurrant, raspberry, licorice and violet on the nose. Bright, juicy and focused, showing very good depth to its intense red fruit and floral pastille flavors. In a cool, racy, mineral-driven style, finishing with gentle sweetness and strong persistence."

**91 points** *International Wine Cellar* Issue 176 Sept/Oct 2014



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