

Paixar 2007



Winery: Bodegas y Vinedos Paixar

Region: Bierzo D.O.

Grapes: 100% Mencia

Winery: This is the joint venture of Alejandro Luna, Eduardo and Alberto Garcia focused on the production of a unique expression of Mencia. It started with the acquisition and leasing of tiny parcels of vineyards in the village of Dragonte (population 60) in the Bierzo region. The name Paixar comes from local oral tradition where Paixares are high old plantings of vines surrounded by chestnut and oak trees. Vines are planted directly in weathered slate of different colors and are 80+ years old; typically producing about one pound of fruit per vine. The low-vigor, old vines produce fruit with particularly concentrated aromas and powerful, fine tannins. The vineyards are between 2,500 and 3,000 feet above sea level, a key factor in the slow and even ripening of the grapes. Due to the altitude, harvest is typically 15 days later than the rest of Bierzo.

Wine: Hand-harvested into small boxes, cluster sorted, cold pre-fermentation maceration, native yeast fermentation. This wine was aged for 16 months in new French oak barrels and bottled without any filtration.

Reviews:

“Vivid purple. Highly expressive bouquet evokes raspberry, candied cherry, incense and Asian spices. There’s a pinot-like clarity and sweetness to this wine that’s really compelling. Spicy, sappy and penetrating, with strong finishing punch and a very long, mineral-drenched finish. This will age on its balance.”

92 points *International Wine Cellar* issue 152 Sept/Oct 2010

“A worthy successor to the terrific 2004 Paixar and the other-worldly 2001, this wine is phenomenal in 2007. The aromas and flavors are strikingly expressive and very complex, showing alluring notes of spices, vanilla, pencil shavings, cocoa powder, woodsmoke and bright fruit recalling raspberries and cherries. Bolstered by plenty of tannin and fancy French oak, this is seriously structured but still very easy enjoy already when decanted and paired with robust foods. It shows the freshness and definition that are establishing Mencia as one of the world’s great grape varieties--at least in the view of those few individuals who are showing the foresight to invest in the few elite wines that are being made from the ancient vines and steep slopes being reclaimed by the visionaries who have brought them back from the brink of extinction. There will be a day--before long--when the word will truly be out on these wines, and on that day this price of \$100 will look like a bargain. Mark my words....”

95 points *Wine Review Online* March 29, 2011 - Michael Franz



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