

# Paixar 2009



**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:

“Paixar is two things at once: A very obscure wine in terms of the awareness of the average wine lover, but also one of the greatest wines of the entire world... dark in color and exceedingly deep and persistent in flavor, but what is unusual is that there’s no hint of over-ripeness or over-extraction... exemplary balance between fruit- and mineral-based flavors and spicy, toasty, but very subtle oak notes”

**99 points** *Wine Review Online* February 11, 2014

“Heady, piercing aromas of boysenberry, plum, violet and graphite are dense as a fortress. The mouth on this loaded. Bierzo has a strong backbone and juicy acidity. Flavors of black cherry, blackberry, coffee and lemony oak finish with a rush of chocolate and then accents of vanilla and baked berry fruits. Best from 2015–2022.” *Cellar Selection*

**92 points** *The Wine Enthusiast* issue 2611, December 2013

“Red and dark berry liqueur flavors show impressive intensity and become spicier with aeration, picking up notes of star anise and rose pastille. Stains the palate but there’s no excess weight here. Finishes spicy, pure and very long, with a whiplash of sweet spices and candied flowers.”

**93 points** *International Wine Cellar* issue 164, Sept/Oct 2012



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