

## VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

### Score **93+** View from the Cellar PAIXAR 2016

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 elevage 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. 2024-2050.

Issue # 85 - January/February 2020



### Score **93** View from the Cellar ART 2017

2017 Art bottling of Mencía from Luna Beberide is from even older vines than the Finca la Cuesta, as these vineyards are eighty to ninety years of age, planted at eight to nine hundred meters above sea level and on an almost pure base of slate, so this is much more Ribeira Sacra-like in its soil composition than most of the vineyards in Bierzo. The wine undergoes its malo in barrel and is raised in a combination of a few new French demi-muids and older two hundred and twenty-five liter barrels. It spends just over a year in cask prior to bottling. The 2017 Art is pretty ripe for this bottling, coming in at fourteen percent in this vintage and delivering a superb, old viney nose of sweet cassis, pomegranate, graphite, a beautiful base of slate minerality, cigar smoke, wild fennel, a touch of tree bark and a deft foundation of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, precise and full-bodied, with a great core of fruit, fine soil signature, ripe, suave tannins and excellent



focus and grip on the long, polished and complex finish. This is more refined in personality than the Finca la Cuesta bottling, with the same fine depth, but more a more elegant personality. First class juice. 2023-2050.

Issue # 85 - January/February 2020

## Score **92** View from the Cellar FINCA LUNA BEBERIDE 2017

The FINCA LUNA BEBERIDE bottling of Mencía from Luna Beberide is produced from decidedly older vines, as these vineyards are sixty years of age and their soils, though still based on clay and limestone, also include plenty of slate. This wine is aged for ten months in older, neutral French oak prior to bottling. The 2017 version is excellent on both the nose and palate, reflecting the more powerful personality of the vintage in its aromatic constellation of cassis, black raspberry, espresso, woodsmoke, graphite, a complex foundation of soil and a topnote of anise. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and nicely plush on the attack, with a fine core and soil signature, ripe, moderately chewy tannins and fine length and grip on the complex finish. The lower acids of the vintage here are apparent in comparison to the 2018 Mencía, but the balance is still impeccable and this wine is going to age beautifully. It is certainly approachable today and quite easy to drink, but another layer of complexity is bound to emerge with some bottle age. 2020-2050.



Issue # 85 - January/February 2020

## Score **90** View from the Cellar MENCIA LUNA BEBERIDE 2018

The 2018 Mencía from Luna Beberide is produced from thirty year-old vineyards that are planted on clay and limestone. It is fermented and raised in stainless steel tanks and bottled unfiltered. This is the bodegas' entry level bottling of Mencía and it has been a superb value that last three or four vintages that I have tasted. The 2018 continues the string of successes, offering up a bright and complex bouquet of cassis, pomegranate, tree bark, woodsmoke and a fine base of



dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and beautifully balanced, with a lovely foundation of soil tones, a good core of fruit, suave, modest tannins and a long, focused and complex finish. This is light on its feet, but has great intensity of flavor and superb backend lift. At well under twenty dollars a bottle here in the US, it is an absolute steal (yet, again)!  
2020- 2035.

Issue # 85 - January/February 2020