

`Black` Bierzo Mencía 2016**Bierzo, Galicia, Spain****PRODUCER**

As well as their work in pioneering the whites of Galicia, Luciano Amoedo and Katia Álvarez of Martín Códax also make wines in Bierzo. The Bierzo DO lies further inland from Rías Baixas, with a slightly warmer climate where Mencía is the native variety.

VINEYARDS

The discovery of four bear footprints in a magnificent vineyard in the highest areas of the Bierzo inspired the name of this wine - Cuatro Pasos or Four Steps. It is a 100% Mencía from grapes chosen from the over 80 year old vines found in vineyards located in the high areas of the Bierzo region with altitudes of up to 800m.

VINTAGE

2016 surpassed expectations, having started with rain and potential issues with mildew during flowering, it improved with spectacular weather in August. Hot, sunny days allowed grapes to ripen well and a healthy harvest was produced.

VINIFICATION

Grapes were picked by hand in 20 kilogram crates and then selected from a sorting table. They were then destemmed and crushed. Pre-fermentative maceration took place at 12°C and alcoholic fermentation at 24-26°C. The wine spent an extended period on the skins post-fermentation and was then aged for 6-7 months in French oak (75%) and American oak (25%) before filtering and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is intense morello cherry red in colour with a wide rim. It has an excellent blend of red fruit notes, toasted spicy and smoked notes. It is full-bodied and balanced, with well-integrated tannins and a mineral finish.

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| Grape Varieties | 100% Mencía |
| Winemaker | Katia Álvarez |
| Closure | Natural Cork |
| ABV | 13.5% |
| Residual Sugar | 3g/L |
| Acidity | 4.6g/L |
| Wine pH | 3.79 |