



LA SENDA

VINDEMIATRIX 2021

ORIGIN

Hervededo, Bierzo, Galicia.

VARIETIES

80% Mencía, 20% Palomino & Doña Blanca.

VINEYARD

From 7 organically farmed old-vine parcels in the hills surrounding the village of Hervededo. Most of the parcels are red and white grapes inter-planted, so Diego co-ferments the different native grape varieties, as was done in the past. The soils are mainly clay-calcareous, and the elevation is around 550 meters.

VINIFICATION METHOD

The grapes were hand-harvested, partially destemmed, macerated for 3-4 days and fermented and raised in unlined concrete tanks for 8 months. The finished wine is bottled without fining, filtration, or added SO2.

PROPERTIES

Alcohol: 10.9%
Total sulfites: <6mg/l
pH: 3.76
Bottles made: 11,900



PRODUCER PROFILE

Diego Losada is a Bierzo native who, after working at a couple bigger wineries, struck out on his own with his project La Senda (meaning “the path” or “the way”) in 2013. He works organically with just over 5 hectares of 60+ year old vineyards at elevations of over 600 feet, about 15 parcels in total. He looks for bush vine vineyards that are not easily accessible by road and planted on either clay-calcareous or slate soils since they are less likely to be exposed to chemical treatments. In the winery, Diego works with a mix of unlined concrete vats and older oak & chestnut casks and foudre with no pumps or SO2 additions. The Bierzo appellation is at the northwest corner of Castilla y León, bordering Galicia. The rolling hills are full of abandoned gold, iron and magnesium mines from centuries past.

VINTAGE REPORT

2021 was the opposite of 2020: it was the rainiest year since 2000, with the coolest winter on record followed by a warm and damp spring. The summer opened cool, and stayed that way until the end of August, when Bierzo was hit with an intense heat wave that brought some ripeness. The threat of storms in September meant that Diego had to harvest during the second week. He writes: “So this 2021 vintage is marked by low alcohol levels, less color on reds, and a little bit more production than the last years.”