

THE SOURCE

Fuentes del Silencio 2016 La Gándara

Varietal(s)	90% Mencía, 9% Alicante Bouschet and 1% Palomino
Region	Castilla y Leon, Spain
Short Summary	Miguel Ángel Alonso (a semi-retired doctor) and Maria José Galera (still a practicing surgeon), began their resurrection project of Castilla y Leon's ancient wine culture and historic, high-altitude (800-1100m) pre-phyloxera vines in Jamuz at the eastern foot of the Galician Massif and the influence of Monte Teleno, one of northwest Spain's highest mountains. Mencía vines (minimum age of 90 years, but some pre-phyloxera) are grown on flat, rocky terraces of quartzite cobbles and pulverized, slate-derived sand, silt and clay with a high quantity of metals. All grapes are hand-harvested and co-fermented in large tronconic wood vats (50ha+) with unique local natural yeasts with varying levels of stem inclusion and soft, infusion-style maceration by foot stomping and bare hand. These field blends are co-fermented (with each plot done separately) in old wooden tronconic tanks and then aged in various vats, from 500-l old French oak barrels to tronconic tanks. They don't filter or fine any red wines.
Terroir	La Gándara is a historic plot in Herreros de Jamuz, and at the beginning of the high plain that leads to Galicia. The vineyard is situated above the old cave. Also surrounded by Valtabuyo River and holm oak forest. The high lands of quartzite and slate derived soils are the result of the erosion of Monte Teleno, toward the west and inside the Galician Massif. These alluvial deposits of the Villafrankian age are known as Rañas. The topsoil has good permeability and clay deposits found deep in the ground encourage the formation of superficial aquifers, many of which produce natural springs (fuentes) throughout the area. Ribera Del Jamuz has a dry continental climate with average annual temperatures below 11 °C. The area sees significant shifts between daytime and nighttime temperature and receives little rainfall. Average precipitation is less than 580 mm per year, far below that other nearby wine regions toward the north, northwest and west. The area is marked by long cold winters with intense frost and very dry hot summers. Protected by the Teleno Mountain, which rise up 2188 metres, it has some of the highest sun exposure in Spain.
Cellar Notes	The 80% whole cluster, spontaneous fermentation takes place in open barrels and plastic bins. A co-fermentation of varieties is employed based on the vineyard composition. First sulfite addition is made at crush (20ppm, or 20mg/l), and the second after malolactic fermentation (20ppm). The fermentation maceration follows the "infusion" style on extraction, which is to say hardly any extractions at all over the 45 day period. Before alcoholic fermentation begins, the grapes are crushed by foot (usually by the women in the winery because they do it more delicately). The malolactic fermentation is done in the same wooden tank (to keep the microbiology of each plot together), and usually finishes this process in December and sometimes in spring.
Farming	Sustainable—Organic Certified—Biodynamic Certified—Uncertified Naturalist
Alcohol %	12.5-13.5
Total SO2	None Added—Very Low—Low—Medium—High

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