

LA LÍNEA

Mencia ✦ 2017 ✦ Adelaide Hills



Mencia? ¿Qué?

Mencia is a red grape with its home in north-western Spain, in the regions of Bierzo, Ribeira Sacra and Valdeorras.

Here it has traditionally been made into light, relatively fragrant red for early consumption. In recent years, more concentrated and complex wines have resulted from some winemakers' new interpretation of the variety.

Our site

Our Mencia is the only block in the Hills, as far as we know. It's on one of the most scenic sections of the beautiful Revenir vineyard at Lenswood: clay loam running across the crest of a hill at approximately 500 m above sea level, with great views (and exposure to 'weather'...) to the south-west. The soil is shallow, which ensures moderate vigour vines. Mencia likes it here: it grows with attractive bright green foliage, and has demonstrated a capacity to develop large bunches of evenly-coloured, medium-large round berries.

Our first crop was a few hundred kilos in 2015; in 2016 and 2017 we thinned those large bunches twice to ensure that we harvested a few tonnes of terrific fruit, in perfect condition. And from that we made a few hundred cases of wine.

Our second red... the task at hand...

The first set us a serious task this year, as at the 2016 Adelaide Hills Wine Show it won the trophy for the über romantically-named "Best Red Wine in classes other than Classes 9, 10, 11, and 12" (*in other words: the best red wine that wasn't made from Pinot noir, Shiraz, or Cabernet sauvignon, or wasn't a 'Bordeaux blend'*). Were we excited? You bet! What a way to start our Mencia journey!

We chose, of course, to follow in our own footsteps in 2017. We picked at a whisker under 13 baumé, did a subtle saignée in the fermenter (don't know what that is? Email peter@laline.com.au), pressed after just over a week on skins, and put some to barrel while keeping some in tank; before blending and early bottling in August 2017.

Is the '17 as good as that trophy-winning 2016? That's a question we will let others answer (*they did: it was pipped for the trophy but won Gold at the '17 show*), but it's certainly very consistent in style, with the same drop-dead beautiful crimson colour, and emphasis on fresh, bright fruit (hints of white pepper, red cherries and red flowers...); carried on a medium-weighted frame which is taut, with lovely gravelly but gentle tannins. Onward and upward!

- Recommended retail:
- Wine details:

\$29.00

13.0% v/v; pH 3.56; TA 5.7 g/L

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