

Bodegas y Vinedos Gancedo

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Josh Reynolds

2012 Val De Paxarinas Blanco Bierzo (\$30) (85% godello and 15% dona blanca): Pale gold.

Vibrant, mineral-laced citrus and orchard fruit aromas and flavors, with a sexy floral nuance adding complexity. At once fleshy and racy, offering bitter citrus pith and honeysuckle flavors sharpened by a gingery nuance. Closes with excellent clarity and length, leaving a chalky mineral note behind. This racy, youthful wine will be even better with a year or two of additional bottle age. **91**

2007 Herencia Del Capricho Blanco Bierzo (\$66) (virtually all godello, with a bit of dona blanca; raised in 100% new French oak): Bright yellow-gold. Exotic scents of poached pear and orange pith, with vanilla and marzipan notes adding depth. Smooth and broad in the mouth, offering dried orchard fruit and buttered toast flavors and a bracing jolt of bitter citrus zest. Distinctly rich white wine with strong closing punch and lingering smokiness. Pretty wild and singular stuff, and far removed from the typically racy white wines of the region. **91**

2011 Gancedo Mencía Bierzo (\$30) Vivid ruby. Perfumed aromas of black raspberry, cola, licorice and vanilla, with a bright mineral overtone. Lively, sharply focused dark berry flavors stretch out and deepen with air, showing an appealing sweetness and no excess fat. Finishes silky and long, with resonating spiciness and supple tannins. **90**

2010 Gancedo Mencía Bierzo (\$24) Bright violet color. Vibrant floral aromas of red and dark berries, cherry and rhubarb, with a deeper licorice nuance emerging with air. Bitter cherry and blackcurrant flavors show very good focus and sneaky sweetness on the back half. Finishes with firm, tangy bite and strong persistence, leaving a sexy rose pastille note behind. **91**

2008 Xestal Bierzo (\$40) Bright violet color. Intense smoke- and mineral-accented aromas of dark berries, cherry pit and violet. Spicy, incisive blackberry and bitter cherry flavors are sweetened by a vanilla quality and show very good clarity and lift. Gains weight with air, along with a licorice nuance that carries through the long, sweet, youthfully tannic finish. **91**

2007 Xestal Bierzo (\$38) (made from bush vines that are between 58 and 100 years of age):

Opaque ruby. Smoky, spice-tinged aromas of dark berry liqueur and cola, with a subtle mineral quality gaining strength with air. Lively and sharply focused on entry, then fleshier and broader in the middle, offering sweet blackberry and cherry-cola flavors and a touch of allspice. Finishes sweet, silky and long, with soft tannins adding shape. This estate's 2007 Ucedo, which I scored 92 points last year, is showing extremely well right now, offering sexy floral and dark berry qualities and a vibrant mineral nuance that I didn't detect last year. It's delicious now but I suspect it will continue to drink well over at least the next few years. **91**

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