

Clendenen Family Vineyards



2017 Chardonnay, Bien Nacido



A knockout - rich, creamy, balanced. For this limited edition Chard, the finest lots of Bien Nacido fruit were barrel fermented in super expensive, custom-made Francois Freres barrels. The style is more complex and intense than our ABC counterpart.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Santa Maria Valley

VINEYARD:
Bien Nacido

VARIETAL:
100% Chardonnay

COOPERAGE:
20 months new François Frères
French oak (350L barrels)

HARVEST: September 25, 2017

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 7.2 g/L

pH: 3.3

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$50

From The Winemaker

The grapes are hand harvested, whole cluster pressed (to minimize tannin extraction from the skins), and totally barrel fermented in 100% new François Frères barrels. What is different about this wine as compared to the Au Bon Climat version is style. For the Clendenen Family we selected the best fruit and used expensive, custom crafted, 350 liter barrels from Francois Freres where the wine was aged 20 months, then bottled unfiltered. On a trip to Burgundy in 2013, Jim Clendenen stumbled on the 350 liter barrels at François Frères and decided these high cost, specially coopered barrels were necessary. We use these barrels for only our best wines. The restrained but penetrating oak component from these barrels works perfectly with long term sur-lie aging.

Tasting Notes

A knockout - rich, creamy, balanced. The wine is elegant but powerful, with flavors of stone fruit, melon and honeysuckle mixed with vanillin, and captivating minerality. For this limited edition Chard, the finest lots of Bien Nacido fruit were barrel fermented in super expensive, custom-made Francois Freres barrels. The style is more complex and intense than our ABC counterpart.

Food Pairings

Rich, with beautiful acid, means it compliments the richness of a dish, but the acid gives it the refreshing finish to offset richness. Think crab or stuffed flounder.

CLENDENEN FAMILY VINEYARDS

Created in 2000, the Clendenen Family brand is a project of passion. There is no doubt quality is here along with the ABC signature of balance, finesse, and longevity. Clendenen Family wines diversity offers something for everyone. The wines are true to their varietal characteristics, are beautifully balanced, and reflect the skill of the winemaking.

ACCOLADES

Antonio Galloni
vinous

95

JEB DUNNUCK

93

Wine & Spirits

93

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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