

Au Bon Climat



2018

Pinot Noir, “La Bauge Au-dessus”

“La Bauge Au-dessus” translates as a “wild party upstairs” and this wine is ready to party! This delicious, supple, Old World Burgundian style Pinot Noir does not compete with food but maximizes the dining experience by complimenting whatever is paired with it. The wine is crafted to have a more integrated structure and suppleness early on, making it enjoyable now, though it will continue to age handsomely. The distinctive fruit character and sublime aromatics of Santa Maria Valley Pinot Noir takes it to another level. Excellent price point.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION: Santa Maria Valley	HARVEST: September 2018
VINEYARD: Bien Nacido, Le Bon Climat	ALCOHOL: 13.5%
VARIETAL: 100% Pinot Noir	ACIDITY: 7.1 g/L
COOPERAGE: 24 months, François Frères French oak	pH: 3.33
	RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0
	SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$35

From The Winemaker

As with all our Pinot Noirs, we are “hands-on”. Every Pinot Noir is fermented in 5-ton open-top fermenters, which are punched down once or twice a day. These punch downs breakup the cap of skins that rises to the surface back into the juice so the fermentation process extracts the best part of the Pinot grapes. The wine is pressed to complete dryness and goes to barrel with moderate lees. Our “La Bauge” Pinot Noir is aged in 50% new French oak barrels made by the cooper François Frères in the heart of Burgundy in the small village of St. Romain. The wine was carefully racked in the spring and then aged another 20 months (24 months total). It was lightly fined with 4 egg whites per barrel, and then bottled unfiltered. (1,633 cases produced)

Tasting Notes

The wine shows off complex aromatics and layered flavors of cranberry, red berries, rose petals, and spice, all signature characteristics fo the wine growing region.

Food Pairings

Matches well with Porcini mushroom risotto, onion bacon tart, or pork tenderloin.

ACCOLADES

Wine & Spirits 91

“Scents of plush cherry fruit and sumptuous oak lead in this wine, sourced mainly from Bien Nacido, with a small contribution from Le Bon Climat Vineyard. In 2018 it has a lavish structure and rich wood accents, of the sort that will keep this wine sturdy and intact for years in the cellar.”

— P.J.C.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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