

Au Bon Climat



2020

Pinot Noir, Bien Nacido Vineyard

Bien Nacido Vineyard is the benchmark and crown jewel of the Santa Maria Valley AVA. One of the oldest, cool-climate vineyards in California, Bien Nacido Vineyard (Spanish for “Well Born”) has been an acclaimed source of world-glass grapes since its founding in 1973 by brothers Stephen and Bob Miller. It is now acknowledged as among the elite vineyards of the world. Au Bon Climat has a special relationship with the vineyard. In addition to having our winery located on the property, we have custom blocks of fruit with long-term acreage contracts for quality hillside vines dating back to the early 1990s. Today, much of what Au Bon Climat sources is fruit that has been planted “exclusively” for us.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Santa Maria Valley

VINEYARD:
Bien Nacido Vineyard

VARIETAL:
100% Pinot Noir

COOPERAGE:
22 months 100% new François Frères French oak

HARVEST: September 4, 2020

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 5.6 g/L

pH: 3.46

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$40

ACCOLADES

WINE ENTHUSIAST 94

JEB DUNNUCK 91

Food Pairings

The wine’s firm structure and expressive spice makes it a good pairing for oak grilled chops, Beef Bourguignon, wild game or spicy Asian dishes.

From The Winemaker

If there is one characteristic that stands this varietal apart from other growing regions, it is in the complex aromatics that suggests cranberry, pomegranate, dried rose petals and earth. The Pinot Noir fruit from Bien Nacido for this wine is clone 115 from Block 2. As with all our Pinot Noirs, we are “hands-on”. The Pinot Noir is fermented in 5-ton open-top fermenters (33% whole cluster) and punched down twice a day. These punch downs breakup the cap of skins that rises to the surface and pushed 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. It was aged 22 months in 100% new François Frères oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

A classic Santa Maria Valley Pinot with amazing aromatics. On the nose it shows fresh pomegranate, red cherry and raspberry jam aromas with back notes of sage and peppercorn joined by cranberry and earthy nuances on the palate. Vibrant and lively, it is drinking nicely today yet will evolve for at least a decade.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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