

Clendenen Family Vineyards



2018 Syrah "Z Block"



Bien Nacido Vineyard grows many varietals extremely well. In 2018, near harvest, some Bien Nacido Syrah grapes from the renowned Z Block became available and offered to us. We know the fruit is exceptional because Bob Lindquist, one of the original Rhone Rangers, has been making great Syrah from this block for years. We jumped at the chance. The grapes were everything we imagined and more. Unfortunately, there is not another vintage behind this. It's a one-and-done deal, so get it while you can!

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Santa Maria Valley

VINEYARD:
Bien Nacido

VARIETAL:
100% Syrah

COOPERAGE:
36 months, 75% new François
Frères Hungarian oak barrels

HARVEST: October 17, 2018

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 6.4 g/L

pH: 3.53

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$75

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.

From The Winemaker

The fruit was hand-picked, and arrived at the winery cool, processed cool and slowly fermented. 50% was whole cluster fermented. The fermenters were manually punched down at least two times per day. We prefer manual punch downs to gently extract all the good stuff from the grapes. After fermentation, the wine was aged in 75% new François Frères French oak barrels for 36 months, then bottled without filtration. This incredibly rich, dark wine is well structured and balanced, so it will age gracefully for ten to fifteen years - maybe more.

Tasting Notes

Spectacular! This 100% Syrah bottling is not only from one of the most sought after blocks at prestigious Bien Nacido Vineyard, but from one of the great Syrah blocks in America. It is an intensely purple, opaque wine with gobs of fruit suggesting crushed blackberries, fresh violets, and earthy spice. The palate is rich and structured with an amazingly deep Syrah character that makes this wine intriguing and worthy of aging for years to come. Match this powerhouse with a thick filet mignon.

Food Pairings

Match this powerhouse red with a thick filet mignon, pork roast or cassoulet.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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