

Clendenen Family Vineyards



2024 Aligoté



Aligoté has deep roots in Burgundy, fabled as one of the first white grapes planted in Corton-Charlemagne. At Au Bon Climat, we honor this history not only through our “Hildegard” white blend but also with a rare single-varietal bottling. Jim Clendenen first explored Aligoté in 1995 with fruit from Mistral Vineyard, later sourcing from Le Bon Climat and today from the alluvial flats of Bien Nacido.

After a short hiatus, we are excited to welcome Aligoté back to the Clendenen Family Vineyards lineup. The 2024 vintage stays true to its Burgundian character—barrel-fermented in neutral French oak, emphasizing bright acidity, lemon zest, and pear, with precise minerality. With limited production and a storied legacy, this bottling continues Jim’s passion for wines that balance history, nuance, and longevity.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Central Coast

VINEYARD:
Bien Nacido, Orcutt Road

VARIETAL:
100% Aligoté

COOPERAGE:
8 months, neutral François
Frères French Oak barrels

HARVEST: September 26 &
October 2, 2024

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 5.6 g/L

pH: 3.4

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$25

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.

Food Pairings

With such lean acidity and mineral tones, Aligoté performs wonderfully alongside dishes featuring shellfish or cow’s milk cheeses. Try this wine with dishes such oysters on the half shell, goat cheese and herb tart, or grilled halibut with lemon butter.

From The Winemaker

Au Bon Climat has a soft spot for Aligoté, the lesser-known white grape from Burgundy. In 2022, our Bien Nacido Tocai Friulano block was grafted over to Aligoté, with the first small crop harvested in 2024. While these young vines establish, we are supplementing with Aligoté from Orcutt Road Vineyard in Edna Valley until Bien Nacido reaches full production in 2026.

The 2024 season brought early ripening and excellent conditions for white wines, producing fruit with freshness and vibrant natural acidity. Thanks to Santa Maria’s cool ocean breezes, our vineyards thrived despite heat waves and late rains. To preserve Aligoté’s hallmark minerality and palate-refreshing acidity, the wine was aged in neutral François Frères French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

A remarkable bouquet of stone fruit—white nectarine and apricot—greet the nose, followed by delicate pear blossom and a hint of waxy orange rind that add complexity as the wine aerates. The palate is carried by vibrant minerality, finishing with lean acidity and a rigid texture for a remarkable sense of purity.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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