

Clendenen Family Vineyards



2021

Nebbiolo "Bricco Buon Natale"



Jim Clendenen loved Italy, including its culture, landscape, cuisine, and wines. He appreciated the food friendly nature of Italian varieties and began making them in Santa Barbara County in the 1980s. His early efforts were groundbreaking. Today, under the Clendenen Family Vineyards label, we continue to produce high quality Nebbiolo in the cool Santa Maria Valley in a traditional Old World style.

Two of the best Nebbiolo clones, Lampia and Michet, were planted at Bien Nacido Vineyard in 1994 for our program. We produce multiple styles using classical methods, including extended aging that is essential for shaping Nebbiolo's naturally high acidity and firm tannins. Bricco Buon Natale represents our longest aged expression and is known for its elegance and structure after four years in barrel.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Santa Maria Valley

VINEYARD:
Bien Nacido Estate Plantings

VARIETAL:
100% Nebbiolo

COOPERAGE:
48 months, 100% new 500L
Hungarian oak puncheons

HARVEST: October 15, 2021

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 6.6 g/L

pH: 3.56

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$40

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

Ideal with classic Italian dishes featuring rich meats, aged cheeses, and tomato based sauces. Try it with Ossobuco alla Milanese, porcini risotto, spicy sausage pizza, or Pasta alla Norma for a vegetarian option.

From The Winemaker

Harvested in mid-October, 2021, this bottling comes from the steep Lampia clone block at Bien Nacido. Small yields and a cool, slow ripening season produced fruit with full flavor development and balanced acidity.

The grapes were hand harvested, carefully sorted, destemmed, and fermented in open top fermenters with twice daily punchdowns. The wine then matured for 48 months in 500 liter Hungarian oak puncheons. This long aging period allowed the acidity and tannins to integrate and created a wine with clarity, depth, and finesse. The result is a structured and expressive Nebbiolo that reflects both the site and the legacy behind it.

Tasting Notes

Aromatic notes include juniper berry, plum, French vanilla, lilac, maraschino cherry, and root beer. The palate shows flavors similar to dark chocolate covered blueberries. Firm, woody tannins provide structure while the bright fruit keeps the wine fresh and focused. This is a complex and ageworthy Nebbiolo that will continue to develop for many years.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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