

Au Bon Climat



2019

Pinot Noir, "Unity"

Unity is a tribute to Jim Clendenen and his enduring impact on California Pinot Noir. Sourced from five prestigious vineyards — Bien Nacido Vineyard, Runway Vineyard, Le Bon Climat Vineyard, Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, and La La Panzi Vineyard — this 100% Pinot Noir blends Isabelle and Knox, named for Jim's daughter and son. With 15% whole cluster fermentation and aging in 100% new François Frères French oak, this limited bottling reflects both family and a seamless, age-worthy expression of Pinot Noir.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
California

VINEYARD:
Bien Nacido, Runway, Le Bon Climat, Sanford & Benedict, La La Panzi

VARIETAL:
100% Pinot Noir

COOPERAGE:
24 months, 100% new François Frères French oak barrels

HARVEST: multiple pickings in 2019

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 5.9 g/L

pH: 3.65

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$100

Tasting Notes

Layered aromatics of spiced black cherry, cranberry, and rose hip rise from the glass, underscored by dark chocolate and subtle notes of forest underbrush. On the palate, the wine is dynamic and evolving, with bright hibiscus tones giving way to deeper notes of dark cocoa. After extended aging in both barrel and bottle, the wine shows remarkable integration, with oak, tannin, alcohol, fruit, and acidity woven into a seamless and elegant structure.

Food Pairings

This Pinot Noir pairs beautifully with refined, savory dishes. Enjoy Unity alongside duck breast, roasted pork loin, or herb-crusted lamb. Its depth and structure also complement mushroom-based dishes, truffle preparations, and aged cheeses.

From The Winemaker

2019 was an exceptional year for Pinot Noir. A warm summer with minimal rainfall allowed for steady ripening and impeccable flavor development in the grapes. The resulting wines show concentration and structure while maintaining a lively and complex aromatic profile.

This bottling is especially meaningful, created in honor of the late Jim Clendenen. A 50/50 blend of Isabelle and Knox Pinot Noir — representing his daughter and son — the wine was aged for 24 months in 100% new François Frères French oak barrels before being bottled in 2021, shortly after Jim's passing. It then rested an additional five years in bottle prior to release. The extended élevage has allowed the wine to fully integrate, resulting in a complete and expressive Pinot Noir that reflects both family and legacy.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

+1 (805) 937-9801

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