



2017 PINOT NOIR

BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD SANTA MARIA VALLEY

628 CASES PRODUCED

2017 was a year to be wary in the vineyard, with weather wavering between bouts of cool and spells of heat. Those years require a lot of vigilance since they provide narrower windows to harvest the fruit at just the right moment. All worked out swimmingly this time though. Even somewhat more inland at Bien Nacido the vintage provided complex, caressing fruit that's outward in a finely measured way.

There's deeply flavorful fruit--even picked at moderate levels of ripeness the old Martini clones at Bien Nacido bring a powerful character of peak-ripe dark cherries. Just shy of Luxardo-like, this element benefits from the lift that comes from the relatively younger Dijon 777 vines. They bring higher toned notions of hibiscus and pomegranate, sort of making a mixed medium effect: young vines bring ethereal watercolors; the old Martini vines bring the richer impact of oil pastels. The whole package closes out late with spice, smoky tea and the fine herbal gauze of stem tannin.

Some will say that 2017 was a tricky year for Pinot Noir in Santa Barbara County, but sometimes there are rewards for being comfortable with a moderate 12.5 percent alcohol ripeness. A monster heatwave came the first three days of September, and seeing that coming we decided most of our Pinot Noir and Chardonnay was ripe enough to harvest. We wound up with a terrific Pinot Noir that is classic Bien Nacido on one hand, and yet shows an interplay between texture and laciness that is unique from any bottlings we can think back on.

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir
VINEYARD Bien Nacido
LOCATION Santa Maria Valley
ALCOHOL 13%
VINIFICATION 30% New French Oak
BARREL AGING 15 Months

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THE
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VINEYARD