

2017 SYRAH

BIEN NACIDO
SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Bien Nacido is the original cool-climate Syrah at The Ojai Vineyard, and we'll never tire of the wild, earthy exuberance that Syrah shows here. This 2017 bottling is another classic example—dazzlingly complex and delicious stuff that is perfectly poised for cellaring, or pairing with hearty foods now.

Some folks think of 2017 as a warm year, generally because of the Labor Day heatwave, but really the vintage was mild overall. After that heatwave temperatures returned to the 70s, until a mild buildup brought this crop to full ripeness at the end of September.

So, this site still gave a very cool climate expression. The aromas show gorgeous florality; the outer layers are effusive with violets and dark rose. Underneath there's a dark, rich fruitiness—peppery notes of black cherries and plum—with complex aromas of smoked meats, forest floor and dried herbs.

This Syrah carries a modest 13.5% alcohol, and the texture is lithe and dense with flavor. Inky dark fruits and gamy notes appear first, then a nervy thread of cranberry propels the wine through its earthy landscape of smoky minerals and exotic spice. The 25% whole clusters open up the structure a bit; a carbonic kick of blue-red fruits and fine, minty stem tannins make for a suave finish.

BLEND 100% Syrah
VINEYARDS Bien Nacido
AVA Santa Maria Valley
ALCOHOL 13.5%
VINIFICATION 12% New French Oak
BARREL AGING 22 Months
TOTAL PRODUCTION 312 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

"My favorite Syrah in the lineup (although I'd be hard pressed to pick between this and the Solomon Hills bottling), the 2017 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard has cool-climate notes of bloody dark fruits, cracked pepper, iron, and earth. Medium-bodied and nicely concentrated, with good acidity and a backward, focused texture, it needs 2-4 years of bottle age and will evolve for a decade." - JD

95+ Points

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THE
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