



2019 CHARDONNAY

BIEN NACIDO SANTA MARIA VALLEY

987 CASES PRODUCED

We've made Bien Nacido Chardonnay from the same patch of I block since 1991, and these vines have always enthralled us with their stark expression of vineyard and vintage. Funny though, moving from the twin vintage 2018 bottling into this 2019 bottling, you have two quite different wines despite all the climatic overlap between the two vintages. Curiouser and curiouser is the way it goes with viticulture and winemaking!

This 2019 bottling maintains much of the earthy poise of the '18 (both years were cooler, later harvests). The aromatics are boisterous and complex, containing white pepper, orchard blossoms, orange pith, and toasty pastry from the lees (the yeast sediment this wine ages on until bottling). In this way it has a similar regality to the '18, but the palate proves this wine has its own sense of soul.

There's an elegant sense of fleshiness with this Chardonnay. The core of it is crunchy with mineral-inflected pear and citrus, but there's also ample and succulent stone fruit. White peach and nectarine notes ebb and flow over the crunchy core, segueing into an airy reverberance of vineyard character, leaving lively notes of lemon curd along with subtle salty and apiary complexities. While there is plenty acidity and just as much as the '18, somehow the feel is less urgent and structured. This wine gives a playful kind of deliciousness, yet it's still classic and balanced in every way.

BLEND 100% Chardonnay

VINEYARDS Bien Nacido

AVA Santa Maria Valley

ALCOHOL 13%

VINIFICATION 100% Neutral French Oak

BARREL AGING 11 Months

TOTAL PRODUCTION 987 Cases

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THE
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VINEYARD