

2018 SYRAH BIEN NACIDO

SANTA MARIA VALLEY

When we first started making Bien Nacido Syrah in 1994, the vineyard was a revelation for what we could do with cool-climate Syrah in California. Decades ago the conventional thought was that good Pinot Noir vineyards would be too cool to ripen the heartier Syrah grape, so most plantings were in warm locales that produced an indistinct (or distinctly Californian) expression of Syrah. Cool vineyards like Bien Nacido have a way of preserving the wild and spicy charms that you find in Syrah from the Northern Rhone, its homeland.

When you couple a cool site with a cool vintage like 2018, you see Syrah flaunting a perfumed expression of savory, earthy complexity. The grapes for this wine were harvested in the third week of October. That gentle climb toward ideal ripeness lent loads of aromatic nuance. Upfront there's an intense nexus of smoky meat, iron and asphalt, then air brings out dark berries, violets and cardamom. The palate straddles brawn and elegance, with a rich and savory mid-palate balanced by mouthwatering acidity and strong peppery tannins. Those relent in the glass somewhat, but this Syrah will be best enjoyed with aging or a fatty lamb dish.

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARDS Bien Nacido

AVA Santa Maria Valley

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION open top fermentation with 25% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 18 months in 16% new french oak

TOTAL PRODUCTION 138 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Antonio Galloni's VINOUS

"The 2018 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard is outrageously beautiful and vivid in the glass. Soaring floral and peppery aromatics lead into a core of dark, mysterious fruit. This is a fabulous example of Bien Nacido and its famed Z Block. Readers will find a dense, structured Syrah built for cellaring. The 2018 is stacked and packed. It just needs a few years in bottle to shine." **96 Points**

Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2018 Syrah Bien Nacido is also brilliant, with a more Hermitage-like leather, meat, and olive vibe in its ripe dark fruits and peppery nuances. It's another medium-bodied, pure, beautifully balanced Syrah from this estate that does everything right." **95+ Points**

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