

# 2019 PINOT NOIR

## BIEN NACIDO

### SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Part of what makes our Pinot Noir from Bien Nacido so exciting is the stark expression of vintage in each release. Warmer years tend to bring out a more flirty, fruity and high-toned stance. Cool years tend to bring out a more deeply developed and earthy exhibition. Like the previous 2018 bottling, the cool growing season in 2019 allowed the fruit to stay on the vine a month longer than vintages in the middle of the decade. The dark provocativeness of this wine speaks to those slow steps toward ripeness.

Here you'll find a nose that is packed with nuance. It's dominated by all sorts of earthy facets—there's a woody fall leaves character that's also laced with leather, dried roses and dark stony minerals. A bit of air coaxes out spicy and smoky tea notes (hojicha fans will delight), along with rich scents of dark berries and stone fruits. While there is plenty of structural underpinning, the palate is overall suave and elegant. The primary bursts of cherry and plum are well framed by pretty French oak, then the wine makes a seamless taper into lively red berries with streaks of salinity and fine peppery tannin.

Our belief is that one of Pinot Noir's great virtues is that you don't have to lay it relatively long in order to enjoy it. This wine is crafted in that belief, yet it's a powerful wine that ideally will gently mingle with air before you open it. Some time in a decanter suffices well in lieu of a couple of years in your cellar.

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**BLEND** 100% Pinot Noir

**VINEYARDS** Bien Nacido

**AVA** Santa Maria Valley

**ALCOHOL** 13.5%

**VINIFICATION** open top fermentation with 10% whole clusters

**BARREL AGING** 15 months in French oak, 30% new

**TOTAL PRODUCTION** 230 Cases

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## PRESS REVIEWS

### Antonio Galloni's VINOUS

"The 2019 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard is dark, potent and impressively structured. Dried herbs, iron, smoke, kirsch and earthy notes give the 2019 its strong, assertive personality. There is plenty of tannic grip, so a few years in bottle will be helpful. Wilder undertones are nicely balanced by the wine's sheer depth. This is the last vintage from the famed Q block, which has now been ripped out as part of an extensive replant." **94 Points**

### Jeb Dunnuck

"More shrimp broth, chalky minerality, gunpowder, and both red and black fruits emerge from the 2019 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido, a classy, surprisingly elegant Bien Nacido with silky tannins, medium-bodied richness, and outstanding length. It's a classic representation of the savory, earthy style of this site aromatically, but the tannins and texture are as seamless as they come, and it shows more fruit and texture than you expect. It's another beautiful, elegant, compelling wine from this estate that will evolve for a decade." **93 Points**

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