



2020 SYRAH BIEN NACIDO SANTA MARIA VALLEY

TASTING NOTE:

This 2020 bottling screams Bien Nacido Syrah with its distinctive cool-climate character. Our 2020 Syrahs are all super site-expressive, which you might not expect considering how hot the vintage was. The aromatics here are redolent with Bien Nacido's typical spruce and violets woodsiness, along with olive, asphalt, and bresaola. The vintage really shows in the brawn here. There's a commanding entry with dark berries, herby olives and oak-fired meat saturating the palate, then the wine tapers into spices, graphite, and sneaky floral notes throughout its grippy finish.

The feel here is a throwback to some of our Bien Nacido Syrahs from the '00s, like the 2006. That also was a dense and vibrant Syrah, and it's continuing to age beautifully. This 2020 bottling will too.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING:

2020 was consistently warm, at times hot. This gave our Syrah higher alcohols and bigger frames than usual, but fortunately we had terrific acidity to balance the heft. This Syrah was harvested in early October, then we destemmed and loaded it into tanks with 16% whole clusters. No sulfites were added at crush. We immediately inoculated with our house-cultured native yeast, then performed pump-overs twice a day until the wine was dry.

We pressed and settled the wine overnight, then transferred it age in French oak barrels (25% new) for 15 months. It was racked once before the next harvest, then bottled unfiltered and unfined with minimal effective sulfur.

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARDS Bien Nacido

AVA Santa Maria Valley

ALCOHOL 14.5%

VINIFICATION 16% whole-cluster fermentation, pumped over

BARREL AGING 16 months in French Oak, 25% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 190 Cases

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