



2021 SYRAH BIEN NACIDO

SANTA MARIA VALLEY

OUR ROWS AT Z-BLOCK:

When we first started making Syrah from Bien Nacido's Z-block 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 Syrah, 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.

We've had the same rows within Z-block since signing in 1994. The block is organically farmed, with widely spaced vines trained to a tall canopy. The vines are widely-spaced and tall but produce a small crop. From the one acre we lease the yield ranges from only 2.3-2.8 tons per acre, a small crop of grapes that are packed with intense vineyard character.

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck:

"Ripe black cherries, fresh fig, game, leather, and meaty notes all shine in the 2021 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard, another absolute gem from this team. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and with a great mid-palate, it reminds me a great Hermitage from the likes of Michel Chapoutier." **97 Points**

VINOUS, Antonio Galloni

"The 2021 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard, from the famed Z-block, is a classy, polished wine. Dried flowers, lavender, mint, spice, tobacco and black cherry are all beautifully delineated. This mid-weight, savory Syrah delivers the goods, big time. What a gorgeous wine it is." **94 Points**

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARDS Bien Nacido

AVA Santa Maria Valley

ALCOHOL 14.5%

VINIFICATION 16% whole-cluster native fermentation, pumped over

BARREL AGING 16 months in French Oak, 16% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 140 Cases

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THE
OJAI
VINEYARD