

2018 PINOT NOIR

BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD

SANTA MARIA VALLEY

We've produced Pinot Noir from Bien Nacido for well over twenty years now, and this 2018 bottling is surely up there with the most powerful. That said, forget any suggestion of chunkiness when we say powerful. We're just talking about a deeply developed and provocatively earthy expression. The cool growing season in 2018 allowed the fruit to stay on the vine a month longer than previous years, and the dark intricacies of this wine speak to those slow steps toward ripeness.

Though we loved the flirty high-toned qualities of the 2017, this 2018 is a wholly different thing. More than lifted red aromas, you find a darker spectrum of fruit expression here. Black cherries, mulberries and plum are at play, but veiled by exotic scents of dark rose, smoked oolong and spice resin. The palate is suave and sensual, with a rich middle stacked with spicy cherries, dark berries and fennel seed, while marine saltiness and fine stony tannins frame the slow taper out. There's so much here already that you won't regret opening it now, but tasting it after a few hours of being open is divine. Lay it down awhile if you can.

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARDS Bien Nacido

AVA Santa Maria Valley

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION open top fermentation with 8% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 15 months in French oak, 27% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 348 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

The Wine Advocate

"Medium ruby-purple, the 2018 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard has loads of aromas, with lush cranberry and blackberry fruits accented by touches of aniseed, bay leaves, dried flowers and cola. The medium-bodied palate offers a grainy, fresh frame packed with flavor layers, and it finishes very long." – **94 Points, Erin Brooks**

Jeb Dunnuck

"More Pommard-like with its crunchy cherry and darker berry fruits as well as herbs, forest, and pine-laced aromas and flavors, the 2018 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard is medium-bodied, elegant, and nearly seamless on the palate. It has a touch more oomph compared to the Santa Barbara County release and I'm sure it will evolve for a decade." – **93 Points**

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THE
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