



# 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. While there is plenty of structural underpinning, the palate is overall suave and elegant. The primary bursts of dark stone fruits 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

**VINEYARD** Bien Nacido

**LOCATION** Santa Maria Valley

**ALCOHOL** 13.5%

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

**BARREL AGING** 15 Months in French oak barrels, 30% new

**TOTAL PRODUCTION** 230 Cases

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