

Pinot Noir Press



BIEN NACIDO ESTATE

Now one of the hottest wineries on California's Central Coast, Bien Nacido Estate crafts a superb collection of wines from its historic Santa Maria Valley vineyard.



It's all about history when it comes to Bien Nacido Estate. The original Bien Nacido Vineyard has become one of the iconic Central Coast vineyards over the past forty years due to its superb tradition of producing excellent fruit and the continuing dominance of wines that have been produced from those grapes.

The actual vineyard is large, comprising more than two thousand acres. It is nestled almost midway up the Santa Maria Valley, just off Highway 101, a few miles southeast of the City of Santa Maria. Its location is considered a cool growing climate, ideal for growing Burgundian and Rhone grapes such as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah and Viognier. Its actual name is Bien Nacido Vineyards of Rancho Tepusquet, a testimony to its rich heritage that traces back almost a century and a half.

It all began as a Mexican land grant way back in 1837. The Mexican governor of Alta, California, one Juan Batista Alvarado, deeded the property to Tomas Olivera as part of a 9,000 acre tract from the Santa Maria Mesa ranging upward to the San Rafael Mountains. The land remained in the Olivera Family for many generations until it was reduced in size to a little over 1,400 acres.

In 1969, the enterprising Miller Family bought the Bien Nacido Ranch

and subsequently turned it into one of California's really great vineyard locations. In the beginning, the family's intention was to farm the property and sell the grapes to high caliber wineries for their usage. For the next half century, wineries such as Qupe, Au Bon Climat, Fess Parker, Gary Farrell, Byron, Foxen, Longoria and more than thirty other top wineries racked up scores of Gold Medals and high marks for their vineyard-designated wines.

In 2010, the Millers decided to produce some wines for themselves under the name Bien Nacido Estate.

"It seemed like the smart thing to do," remarked Nicholas Miller, the family's spokesman. "After all, many wineries had been producing extraordinary wines from our fruit with incredible success. We wanted to see if we could duplicate their experiences."

As predicted, Bien Nacido's first wines that were released in 2010 were immediately showered with plaudits and high scores.

The Miller family also decided on a marketing strategy for the label that was different from their other wineries. Bien Nacido Estate became an on-premise brand, and was only made available to the highest caliber restaurants. These restaurants were delighted with the prospects and immediately lavished high praise on the wines. *continued...*



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There is no telling how many cases of each wine will be produced at Bien Nacido Estate. "Our intent is only to produce the finest wines we can, and we never know until we finish the winemaking process just how good the wines will be. Some vintages will be more, some less. It is our quality-only commitment to our family and customers, so we are bound by what is actually produced," Miller added.

In this day of commercialized wines and wineries, such intent is definitely a breath of fresh air. Since Bien Nacido Estate has only a small cadre of top notch restaurants as customers, this month's Pinot Noir Wine Club selection is a boon to our members. This is a rare occasion that Bien Nacido Estate has been offered for sale outside of restaurants and the winery directly.

It is a tribute to the Miller family that they have chosen this expression as a means of offering their finest wines to more customers. We welcome this exceptional Pinot Noir to our regal family of fine wines.

BIEN NACIDO 2014 PINOT NOIR

Santa Maria Valley

From one of the Central Coast's most iconic vineyards comes the Bien Nacido 2014 Estate Pinot Noir, a beautiful wine produced from a vineyard block nestled at 900 ft elevation in the Santa Maria Valley. On the nose, classic spicy black tea and dark fruit aromas jump out of the glass with hints of cardamom and pepper. On the palate, bright acidity and soft tannins balance out the richness of the berry fruit flavors. Aged in oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy now until 2022.

95 POINTS

– Antonio Galloni's
Vinous

92 POINTS

– Wine Enthusiast

92 POINTS

– Robert Parker's
The Wine Advocate



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