

GOLD MEDAL  
WINE CLUB'S

# Pinot Noir Press



v09i019



## SOLOMON HILLS VINEYARDS

From the family behind the famous Bien Nacido Vineyard comes an equally exciting vineyard and winery project centered in the cool-climate region of California's Santa Maria Valley.



When the Miller family of California's Central Coast launched their most recent winery project in 2008, most industry insiders were already convinced of the operation's eventual success. These early predictions have already proven to be accurate and Solomon Hills Vineyards is securely among the elite boutique producers in the region.

The vineyards involved in the entity are located directly along Highway 101 just south of Santa Maria, the stretch of road known for centuries as the storied El Camino Real. Their location is also the western most in all of California, making them compliant to the caprices and whims of the Pacific Ocean. It is also interesting to note that the Santa Maria Appellation is the second oldest appellation in California, coming just seven months behind Napa Valley in 1981.

Solomon Hills also has its share of history. Supposedly named after an early 19th century bandit named *Solomon Pico*, whom folklore has it was the main focus for the *Zorro* legends, the area has become a prime component for the prestigious Santa Maria growing appellation. The fruit from this area is always in great demand and is made into numerous vineyard-designate wines throughout the Central Coast.

Solomon Hills' production is absolutely miniscule. Only 100 or 200 cases are made of each varietal,

depending on yearly variations within each vineyard. Nicholas Miller, a fifth-generation member of the Miller family, and one of the partners behind the brand, plans for only moderate growth in Solomon Hills' future. The family wants to keep everything small and the quality extremely high.

It's a family affair at Solomon Hills - with Nicholas Miller currently handling all of the company's sales and marketing chores, his brother Marshall overseeing the financial and operational duties, and family patriarch Steve Miller active in all aspects of the sprawling Miller viticulture empire. This "empire" includes the iconic Bien Nacido Vineyard, owned by the Miller family and considered by many one of the prime producing vineyards in all of California. A state-of-the-art winery facility at Bien Nacido is where most of the family's wines are made, including those from Solomon Hills Vineyards.

It seems as if everything is in place for Solomon Hills Vineyards to continue its award-winning pace for many years to come. With incredible fruit from its namesake vineyard and the carefully thought out winery plan for the company itself, Solomon Hills Vineyards is certainly poised for even more greatness in the future. We are proud to present Solomon Hills Vineyards to our *Pinot Noir Series* members. Cheers!

## ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



San Diego native and fourth generation Californian, Trey Fletcher is the relatively new winemaker behind Solomon Hills and Bien Nacido wine brands. He joined the Miller family in 2011 as winemaker and general manager after several years of winemaking experience in Europe, New Zealand, Argentina, and California. Most notably, he worked for Clos Henri in New Zealand, Michael Rolland in Salta, Argentina, and both Domaine Alfred and Littorai in California. As family spokesperson, Nicholas Miller remarked, "Trey Fletcher is the perfect fit for our project. He is talented, smart and down-to-earth. We could not have asked for a winemaker more ideally suited to our two brands."

## SOLOMON HILLS 2012 SANTA MARIA VALLEY PINOT NOIR

Produced from the esteemed Solomon Hills Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley of California's Central Coast, the Solomon Hills 2012 Pinot Noir is the perfect blend of earthy elements with the characteristic ripeness of California fruit. Deep berry in color, this Pinot Noir has intense aromatics of red licorice, cinnamon and oriental spices that are backed up by an extremely soft palate with flavors of rhubarb, strawberry, rose hips, wild berries and anise. Vibrant acidity and smooth tannins round out this special wine. Aged 16 months in oak. 100% Pinot Noir.

Cases Produced: 360

Enjoy Now Until: 2020

**94 POINTS +  
EDITOR'S CHOICE**

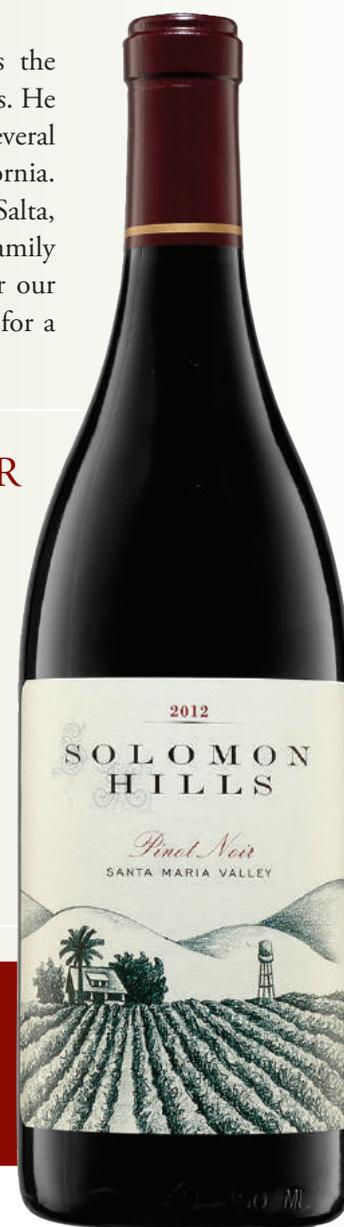
- *Wine Enthusiast magazine*

**94 POINTS**

- *Antonio Galloni's Vinous*

**91 POINTS**

- *Robert Parker's  
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### Solomon Hills 2012 Pinot Noir

Solomon Hills Vineyard, Santa Maria Valley

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