

GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S *Pinot Noir Press*



v09i14



TANTARA WINERY

Located on the Central Coast's iconic Bien Nacido Vineyard, Tantara Winery is dedicated to producing the very finest Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the region's top growers and vineyards.



Nestled in one of the most picturesque and storied vineyards on the Central Coast, Tantara Winery began as a partnership between two friends and winemakers in 1997. Bill Cates and Jeff Fink, both originally from Virginia, shared a dream of building a world-class winery in California, and made it their mission to see it through. Today, their winery crafts some of the finest Pinot Noir on California's Central Coast.

Many people talk about moving out west and making wine, but few get past the talking stage - especially when they're talking from Virginia. Bill Cates grew up in Virginia and worked through a number of professions, including horse training, construction, photography, and theatrical copywriting. He even took up organic farming during the 1970's and spent time growing American hybrid grapes while making homemade wine.

Jeff Fink's background is notably diverse as well, dabbling in music, sailing, and architecture. He met Bill in the mid-1970's when they both lived in Roanoke, Virginia and discovered they had a shared love of Pinot Noir. After many late evening conversations about the great red Burgundies and countless shared bottles, Bill and Jeff decided to one day create a world-class wine of their own.

In 1984, Jeff Fink moved to California and began frequenting the major wine regions. He got to know many Pinot Noir producers and totally immersed

himself in the industry, picking up tips and making small batches of homemade wine in his free time. In 1994, Jeff had the opportunity to work with fruit from the Central Coast's Laetitia Vineyard and Bien Nacido Vineyard and he was blown away by the quality of fruit. He became friends with the director of grape sales for Bien Nacido Vineyard and struck up a deal to make something of a crumbling shed he found on the ranch. The architect within him was getting inspired as he envisioned building a winery on this picturesque vineyard. Jeff called up Bill Cates and their journey to make the finest Central Coast Pinot Noir was on its way. Together, they founded Tantara Winery in 1997.

The name *Tantara* came from a horse Bill had owned while living in Virginia. At one point, Tantara was not expected to live much longer and she was retired to pasture. She ended up defying the odds and lived a long and healthy life. Horses also often symbolize elegance, grace, and power - all of which are qualities embraced in Tantara's portfolio of extraordinary wines.

Over the years, Tantara has gained incredible critical acclaim for its wines, all produced from among the most distinguished vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills, Santa Maria Valley, and Santa Lucia Highlands. We applaud their efforts and hope you enjoy their latest achievement.



ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Today, winemaking at Tantara Winery is overseen by Ariki (Rick) Hill, a New Zealand native with an undeniable passion for Pinot Noir and a great respect for the Central Coast wine growing region. Together, Ariki and Bill are continuing Tantara Winery's high profile reputation with an increasingly focused portfolio of vineyard-designate Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays from the region's best vineyards (Jeff Fink departed the company in 2011 to pursue other interests). They both believe that the Central Coast is blessed with ideal growing conditions for these varietals, and it is their goal to transform this fruit into great wines, vintage after vintage.

TANTARA 2011 BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD ADOBE PINOT NOIR

Tantara's 2011 Bien Nacido Vineyard 'Adobe' Pinot Noir was produced from the iconic Bien Nacido Vineyard, located on the northern flank of the Santa Maria Valley at the base of the Sierra Madre Mountains. This vineyard is especially well-known for its world-class Pinot Noirs that are consistently awarded year after year. Tantara's 2011 bottling shows flavors of raspberry, red and black cherry, and cassis with hints of leather, rose petal, and a touch of black pepper. Beautifully balanced with soft tannins and nice acidity. 100% Pinot Noir.

Cases Produced: 100

Enjoy Now Until: 2019

92 POINTS

- Antonio Galloni's *Vinous*



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Tantara 2011 Pinot Noir
'Adobe,' Bien Nacido Vineyard, SMV

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	2+ btl.	6+ btl.	12+ btl.
2-Bottle Members:	\$46.00	\$44.33	\$43.50
4-Bottle Members:	\$46.00	\$43.50	\$42.25
Charter Members:	\$43.70	\$41.33	\$40.14

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