

# 2011 BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD SANTA MARIA VALLEY PINOT NOIR

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## BEN AND DAN'S NOTES

Our 2011 Twomey Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir has a dark ruby color with sapphire edges. This multi-dimensional wine speaks of its maritime influence with a detailed nose of black cherries, dark rose petals, seaweed, orange peel, roasted meat and fresh split cedar. On the palate, it has great body, being fleshy but focused, and displays notes of black fruit and salted caramel. It has a beautiful finish of powdery tannins, fresh coffee beans and a hint of cherry liqueur. With proper cellaring, this wine will give drinking pleasure through 2023.

## VINEYARD

Bien Nacido Vineyard — The backbone of this wine comes from blocks 1, 7 and 9, all organically-farmed hillside plantings from this classic Santa Maria Valley vineyard. This is the second vintage we've received fruit from a portion of Block N, one of the original 1972 plantings of the Martini clone on its own roots.

**HARVEST DATES:** *September 9<sup>th</sup> - September 29<sup>th</sup>*

**BARRELS:** *French Burgundy, 58% new, 42% once-used*

**BARREL AGING:** *13 months sur lies*

**ALCOHOL:** *12.9%*

**TA:** *0.58*

**pH:** *3.48*

**RELEASE DATE:** *September 14, 2013*



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## NOTES FROM THE VINEYARD

The 2011 growing season was very unusual and presented many challenges, but it was extremely rewarding. Fluctuating weather conditions starting in winter and lasting through spring kept us on our toes as each week was as unpredictable as the next. Rain in early June threatened the vines with mildew and botrytis making careful canopy management and viticultural practices more important than ever. Cluster count was low and fruit set was somewhat erratic due to the cool, cloudy conditions which continued throughout the summer. While the cool weather led to significantly smaller crop yields than previous years, the fruit displayed excellent phenolic and flavor maturity at low sugar levels. The resulting wine is concentrated and tightly wound, displaying very distinct clonal differences with intense detail and complexity. This was a rare opportunity to make California wine in European growing conditions.

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