



2021 CHARDONNAY

BIEN NACIDO

SANTA MARIA VALLEY

TASTING NOTE

Bien Nacido often provides a racier style of Chardonnay with our approach, but some years the wine skews a little richer. Take this 2021 bottling. It's lively and moderate in alcohol, yet the gradual ripening in this cool vintage lent some riper character. It's floral and mineral, but also shows some decadence with scents of brioche, light honey, streaks of marmalade and fresh pineapple. The crisp entry flows into rounder textures that give flavors of poached pear, spice and lemon curd, then it ebbs back into minerals and citrusy verve. The ample textures and food-friendly balance make it the perfect thing to pair with rich seafood (think Oysters Rockefeller).

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

2021 was a terrific vintage for us in Santa Barbara County. While many other parts of the state were quite hot that year, our area remained anomalously cool and foggy. Fog is a major component of classic Santa Barbara County vintages, but it was more persistent than usual in 2021, and downright milky at times.

This fruit was hand-harvested in the chill of the night with three picks in the middle of September. After pressing and overnight settling, we racked the juice into mostly neutral French oak barrels (15% new) and inoculated it with our house-cultured native yeast (cultured from fruit picked during sampling). We stirred it throughout primary and secondary fermentation, then left the wine to age on its lees for 11 months until bottling.

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2021 Chardonnay Bien Nacido Vineyard comes from one of the Grand Cru sites in California and has a classic style in its more honeyed orchard, musky orange, and pear-like fruits as well as chalky minerality and spice-driven nuances. Beautifully textured on the palate, it has a forward, supple mouthfeel, terrific balance, and a clean finish. Drink this any time over the coming decade." **94 Points**

BLEND 100% Chardonnay

VINEYARDS Bien Nacido

AVA Santa Maria Valley

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION barrel fermented, aged on lees until bottling

BARREL AGING 11 months in French oak barrels, 11% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 836 Cases

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THE
OJAI
VINEYARD