

From the brink, the outer edges of convention, comes a collection of wines that defies the commonplace. Wines borne from sites that push their vines to struggle. Sites that compel their grapes to earn every nuance of flavor, every layer of character.

2016 ROCKBOUND PINOT NOIR • SANTA MARIA VALLEY

THE WINE

Rockbound is a wine both supple and complex, offering a clear expression of its rugged site—the famed Bien Nacido Vineyards, where shards of Monterey Shale can be found strewn among the vines.

PALATE

The quartz, sandstone and diatomic rocks found at Bien Nacido Vineyards impart a mineral-focused grace to this wine. Electric and vibrant, our Pinot Noir is a game of refinement with a twist, courtesy of barrel fermentation and a touch of carbonic. With polished tannins and a subtle hint of fine French oak, the wine opens with notes of raspberries, pomegranate seeds and quince paste, underneath which subtle layers of rose petals and violets coalesce around suggestions of black tea and brown spice. Linear acidity in the mouth melds with an elegant palate, and the finish concludes on an energetic mineral note.

VINEYARD

Cool, coastal growing conditions at Bien Nacido Vineyards lignify grape stems and seeds to an almost rustic wood, creating soft, alluring tannins. Most Pinot Noir clusters never experience this, but ours are grown on the vineyard's upper bench in the Santa Maria Valley, where thick fog from the Pacific envelopes the vines during a lengthy growing season.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were hand-harvested in the evening. A combination of new and neutral French oak barrels were filled with 10% whole clusters and topped with destemmed whole berries, allowing some carbonic maceration to occur. Following a cold soak, the wine was fermented in oak barrels—atypical for red wines—allowing a modest thread of lignified stems from the whole clusters to interact with the barrel tannins, imbuing the blend with a plush texture. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation and was aged in barrel for 11 months.

APPELLATION: Santa Maria Valley

VINTAGE: 2016

VARIETAL: 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARDS: 100% Bien Nacido Vineyards

AGE OF VINES: 45 years

CLONES: Pommard and Martini

SOIL: Fine sandy loam

HARVEST BRIX: 24.5%

AGING: 11 months in French oak, 25% new, 75% second-use

PH: 3.49

ALCOHOL: 14.2%

