



## 2020 SYRAH BIEN NACIDO SANTA MARIA VALLEY

When we first started making Syrah from Bien Nacido's Z-block in 1994, the vineyard was a revelation for what we could do with cool-climate Syrah in California. Decades ago, the conventional thought was that good Pinot Noir vineyards would be too cool to ripen Syrah, so most plantings were in warm locales that produced an indistinct (or distinctly Californian) expression of Syrah. Cool vineyards like Bien Nacido have a way of preserving the wild and spicy charms that you find in Syrah from the Northern Rhone, its homeland.

You can see its intensity in the glass, where you find a striking depth of black crimson with purple edges. That purpleness extends to the aromas, where there are big wafts of violets and lavender, along with spices, dark berries, and savory scents of peppery grilled beef. Upfront the palate is deliciously rich and glossy with a subtle frame of French oak. There's lots of spicy and deeply hued stone-fruits that mingle with leather and dried herbs. Then it glides into a sleek, lively finish with a very fine peppery resonance. It's not a Bien Nacido Syrah that screams "Age me!" It will age as well as ever, we're sure, but out of the gate it is open and delicious.

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**BLEND** 100% Syrah

**VINEYARDS** Bien Nacido

**AVA** Santa Maria Valley

**ALCOHOL** 14.0%

**VINIFICATION** 16% whole cluster fermentation, pump over

**BARREL AGING** 16 months in French Oak, 25% new

**TOTAL PRODUCTION** 190 Cases

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