



2004 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard - Block Eight Santa Maria Valley

Bien Nacido's Block Eight was planted for us in 1996 with clones 2A, Sanford & Benedict, 113, 115, and Pommard. Farmed exclusively for Foxen, "Block 8" is Bien Nacido Vineyard's highest and steepest block. This particular bottling is comprised of clones 2A, Sanford & Benedict (originally Mt. Eden) and Pommard. The 2004 Block Eight harvest began September 7 and was completed by September 15. Individual clonal lots were whole-berry de-stemmed, gravity fed to open-top fermenters. The lots were cold soaked three to five days and then inoculated. The fermentations lasted seven to fourteen days, with two punch-downs per day. The 2A clone macerated post-fermentation an additional 30 days. The lots were then racked and blended, without oxygen, in the spring of 2005. This wine aged an additional year in François Frères barrels (Allier, medium toast, 75% new).

Winemaker's Notes:

"This version of the "Ocho" displays red fruits (strawberries and raspberries) and classic Bien Nacido hard spices (cinnamon stick, clove, and cardamom). In the mouth exotic flavors of strawberry tart, raspberry, and cherry cola are beautifully balanced by a creamy mid-palate and lingering finish." □ □ □ – Bill Wathen, winemaker

Vineyard Composition:

Clones: 60% - 2A, 40% - Mt. Eden

Reviews:

92 Points – Wine Spectator – James Laube

"Wonderful purity of flavor. Rich raspberry, wild berry, cedar and anise, with hints of tobacco that are dense and concentrated. Finishes with a firm burst of flavor and rich, loamy tannins. Best from 2007 through 2011."

93 Points – The Wine Advocate – Robert Parker, Jr.

"Dramatic is the stunning 2004 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard Block Eight. One of the finest Bien Nacido examples I have ever tasted. Offering up notes of licorice, sweet black cherries, herbs, currants, and spice, this full-bodied, powerful yet delicate, intense yet finesse-filled beauty is stunningly rich, layered, and complex. It should drink well for 5-7 years... Bravo to proprietors and winemakers Bill Wathen and Dick Dore."

Production: 425 cases