

STEELE PINOT NOIR BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD BLOCK 'N' 2010



VINEYARDS

Bien Nacido is a well-known vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley. On a bench that overlooks the Sisquoc River, this highly-esteemed vineyard is quite large and has numerous slopes and aspects. Bien Nacido, literally Spanish for “Born Well”, is one of the vineyards in Santa Barbara where Steele Wines purchases Pinot Noir grapes. Many of the most prestigious wineries in California purchase grapes from this vineyard. Our favorite block for the single vineyard wines is “N-Block” which gives the most intense fruit.

SEASON

2010 was a very cool growing season with scattered rains throughout the year and harvest. A cool spring and summer were punctuated by late season heat spikes. The heat spikes did finally ripen the grapes, although special care had to be taken throughout the process for optimum quality. Harvest conditions were difficult although the conditions produced lighter and more focused wines, with typically higher levels of natural acid.

WINE STYLE & TASTING NOTES

Fermentations are carried out with as little manipulation as possible. The wines from Bien Nacido are deeper, richer, and with more color and body than from other vineyards. Our aging program is always in French oak barrels which are heavily toasted. This vineyard, given its coastal influence, produces a wine with aromas of cherry, black raspberry, clove, and new leather, and flavors dusty cocoa, bing cherry, and currant dance on your palate. With its balance of acidity and a finish that lingers of sweet tobacco and spices, this wine is always elegant, and alluring.

FOOD PAIRINGS

The rich fruit of this wine will compliment many dishes, try with braised duck breast with a pomegranate glaze or poached salmon with lemon and herbs.

APPELLATION Santa Maria, Santa Barbara HARVEST DATES

September 29th, 2010 **ALCOHOL** 13.7% **BRIX** Average 23

FERMENTATION Avg. 28 days at 82°F **pH** 3.62 **TA** .70g/100mL

BARREL AGING 12 months in French; 10% new oak **VINE AGE** Avg.

30 years **YIELDS** 3-4 tons per acre **CASE PRODUCTION** 180 cases