2022 CHARDONNAY BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD SANTA MARIA VALLEY \$36



- Clone 17 from Block O, planted in 2006
- Soils elder loam, 2% to 9% slopes, pH 5.6-7.3
- Hand harvested, cold fruit from first morning pick September 17, 2022
- Low vineyard yield 2 tons per acre 22° Brix
- Whole cluster pressed
- barrel fermented in new medium toast French oak, Battonage and aged Sur lie for 7 months
- blended and tank settled 6 weeks prior to bottling
- Peak temperature 57° slow 14 day fermentation
- Wine analysis 13.4% Alcohol, .6 TA, 3.4 pH

The Bien Nacido Vineyard is located in the Santa Maria Valley on the South Central Coast of California, just east of Santa Maria. The topography of the valley features transverse ranges with an east/west orientation, opening up to the Pacific Ocean. The climate is strongly influenced by the ocean providing ideal temperate growing conditions for Chardonnay. Early spring warming, mild summer temperatures and late arriving cold fall temperatures provide a long growing season for the development of complex flavors.

Clone 17 is the Robert Young clone that offers notes of white stone fruit and inherent delicacies that lend itself well to a soft approach. The Chardonnay is barrel fermented in medium toast barrels for a nuanced extraction and battonage was employed to complement the clean citrus and white peach qualities with subtle notes of cream and Marcona almond on the mid-palate.