



2000 SYRAH “BIEN NACIDO HILLSIDE ESTATE”

This wine is 100% Syrah from the “Z” Block at Bien Nacido, which is the older hillside block that was planted in 1992. The grapes were harvested on November 3rd at 23.8 brix, 3.24 pH, and 8.1 grams acidity. 2000 was a fairly warm vintage in Santa Barbara County, but the latter half of October cooled down and drew out the end of the ripening. The grapes were entirely destemmed, cold soaked for three days, and then fermented in small open top fermenters with manual punch down twice a day. On day five, after the fermentation was fairly active, two barrels of saignée were drawn out of each tank and fermented in new François Frères French oak barrels. The wine was aged for 20 months in François Frères French oak barrels (70% new) and bottled without fining or filtration. 1400 cases (2800 six packs) were produced.

This is our 7th vintage of Hillside Estate Syrah. It’s a forward vintage and reminds me a lot of the 1996 and 1997 wines. The wine shows dried raspberries, hints of white pepper, and lots of toasty mocha character from the saignée barrel fermentation. It is generous and full of fruit with great acidity. This wine should age beautifully for 10-15 years.