



2005 BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD SYRAH

This wine is 100% syrah from four different sections at Bien Nacido: 42% from Block Eleven “Baja,” 28% from X Block, 26% from Block Eleven “Alta,” and 4% from the Z Block. The Alta and Z Block lots are not usually used in this wine (Alta goes into our Central Coast bottling; Z Block into our Hillside Estate), but the first pick off Alta gave us one of our juiciest, best balanced lots in '05. The Z Block portion was from a pick that got a little too ripe and so was culled from our Hillside lot and blended into this larger blend.

2005 was an amazing harvest in the Central Coast and one of our best ever at Bien Nacido. A long, even growing season was followed by perfect ripening conditions in the Fall.

We started picking on October 6th and finished on October 24th. Sugars ranged from 23.4° to 25.5° with pH's in the 3.2 and 3.3's and perfect acidity. The X Block was fermented with 33% to 50% whole clusters, the other lots were destemmed. The wine was aged 12 months in barrel (30% new oak). We used mostly French oak (François Frères and Hermitage), but the abundant Harvest had us scrambling for extra barrels so we incorporated some Hungarian barrels coopered by François Frères as well. The wine was lightly fined with egg whites and bottled without filtration in November 2006. 3,728 cases were bottled.

This is a classic vintage of Bien Nacido Syrah – structured, balanced, spicy with persistent fruit. The aromas show typical cool climate character of white and black pepper, thyme and dried raspberries. Tannins are moderated by rich fruit and spices with the kind of refreshing acidity that makes you want more. This 2005 ranks among our best ever and will age nicely for 10-15 years.