



## **2007 SYRAH BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD**

This wine is 100% Syrah, 96% from the Bien Nacido Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley, 3% from the Sawyer Lindquist Vineyard in the Edna Valley and 1% from the Colson Canyon Vineyard on the eastern edge of the Santa Maria Valley. The Bien Nacido fruit came primarily from Block Eleven (57%) and X Block (28%), with a bit coming from Block 17 (11%).

Yields were very low in Syrah at Bien Nacido in 2007 due mainly to poor weather at flowering and set. The fruit had great intensity though, and I was able to use some lots in this wine that I normally earmark for our Central Coast program. The inclusion of the Sawyer Lindquist and Colson Canyon got lost in the blend and gave us an extra 96 cases.

2007 was a fairly cool vintage. We started harvesting Syrah at Bien Nacido on October 6th and finished on October 23rd. Alcohols and acids were both in great balance, with the alcohol at 13.95% (we labeled it 14.0%).

The various lots were fermented separately in small open top fermenters and manually punched down twice a day. We used an average of about 15% whole clusters with stems. Aging was in French oak barrels for 17 months, of which about 25% were new François Freres and Ermitage barrels. The wine was fined with egg whites and 2092 cases of 750ml, 40 cases of magnums, and 250 cases of 375ml were bottled in April 2009.

This is an intense and spicy vintage of one of our flagship Syrahs. The aromas offer up raspberry, pepper, lavender, and a gamey, smoked meat aspect. Long and luxurious in the mouth, with great structure and acidity. Drink this for its exuberant fruity character over the next couple years, or put it down for 8-12 years to take it to the next level.