

LANE



TANNER

## **2009 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard**

Cases Produced: 199  
Harvest Date: 9/3/2009  
Numbers @ Harvest: 23.0 Brix  
Wine Numbers: 13.8% Alc. 3.56 pH 0.81TA No R.S.

The tonnage for this year was spot on at around 2 tons per acre. The most wonderful thing about the 2009 BNV PN is that it came in looking perfect...I mean picture postcard perfect, just beautiful. I felt bad crushing the clusters because I have never seen grapes that clean and uniformly sound. The juice tasted of ripe strawberries. The 2009 Bien Nacido is pure N block, rows 62-76 (Martini clone on its own rootstock, planted 1973) and is just the happy boyish charm Pinot Noir that we have come to expect from this premiere vineyard.

I gently destemmed all of the grapes into 4' by 4' by 4' open top fermenters, then I added a few handfuls of stems back into the fermenter bins because the stems were mature enough to add a bit of spice without adding green tannins. The juice was fermented with Auszmanhausen yeast to retain the fruity components. Punch down routines were performed to maximize the delicate flavors and subtle, elegant nuances of the Pinot Noir grape without extracting the more coarse, alcohol soluble components. The fermentation took about two weeks. The wine spent 15 months in French oak barrels. That is 5 months longer than normal but that extra time rounded the mouth beautifully. The wine is unfinned and gently filtered (I call it rock and frog filtering) for visual clarity. I bottled this wine on December 7, 2010. It may naturally throw some sediment over time. All of my wines are Very low in sulfites because I am personally allergic to them.

The 2009 is subtly spicy, layered with an intense red pinot fruit nose that is nuanced by hints of earth, strawberry, plum, blackberry and winter herbs. The mouth is extremely fresh, well balanced and vibrant, with silky tannins and a long and spicy finish (with the help of that extra 5 months in bbl). The aftertaste is always sweet and clean. White pepper is lingering along the way. This is a very marked characteristic of many red grapes from the Bien Nacido Vineyard. This is a lovely wine and has an attractive Burgundian element to the mouth feel. Overall it is worth a look for those who like classically styled pinot. The 2007 Bien Nacido received a 94 point rating from *The Wine Enthusiast* and a 91 from Steve Tanzer. I think the 2009 will be a winner too.

To sum it up, this year's vintage is a bit on the concentrated and dark side. The alcohol is a touch lower... so you can drink more. I'm guessing this baby's going to be a keeper, for those of you that like to collect. Just remember that it is very tasty right now too and there isn't much to go around!

Back Label...It's all about the journey.....