

## 2010 Sandler Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir

Clone: 22

Alcohol: 14.6%

pH: 3.61

TA: 6.2 g/L

Barrel aging: 10 months in 20% new and 80% 1 and 2 year old French oak

Cases produced: 142

Release price: \$36

After an 8 year absence, I'm thrilled to be making wine again from Bien Nacido. I first set foot in the vineyard in 1999 when I was the winemaker at Testarossa. It was in this vintage that I saw how magical Pinot Noir can be in the Santa Maria Valley, and to this day, that '99 Bien Nacido Pinot we made at Testarossa is still my favorite Pinot I've had a hand in producing.

The 2010 Bien Nacido Pinot comes from a year when we didn't have much of a summer until early September. Temperatures soared up and down the coast, but especially down south. The fruit at Bien Nacido went from seeming like it was a month away from ripening to being ready in less than a week. I would say this is a bigger Pinot than I normally produce, but it still has that Santa Maria spice and charm. Based on my experience with the ageability of Santa Maria Pinots, this 2010 has a long life ahead of it with its dense structure and rather closed state at this young.

