

2011 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir

Harvest date: 10-1-11

Bottling date: 8-17-12

Clone: 22

Alcohol: 13.6%

pH: 3.51

TA: 6.7 g/L

Barrel aging: 10 months in 2 year old French oak barrels.

Cases produced: 50

Sandler's second vintage of Bien Nacido Pinot Noir is the 2011, which was another summer of cold, foggy days in the Santa Maria Valley. Vineyard manager Chris Hammell did an excellent job of ripening what little fruit there was in an extremely difficult growing season.

As opposed to the very ripe 2010 Bien Nacido, the 2011 is a completely different wine and shows the true, cool climate characteristics of the vineyard. The herbal, hedonistic nose and the delicately fruity palate with excellent acidity are what is expected from Bien Nacido Pinot Noir. Already opening up in early 2013, the 2011 Sandler Bien Nacido should be at its peak from 2014 through 2018.

