

2012 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir

Harvest date: 9-27-12

T.A.: 6.4 g/L

pH: 3.63

Aging: 33% new French oak

Fermentation: 100% destemmed, 20 days in the fermenter

Bottling date: 7-19-13

Alcohol: 13.5%

This 1972 Block T planting of clone 22 Pinot Noir has rewarded both winemakers and wine drinkers over the years, and every vintage it seems to come up with a new flavor or texture. 2012 was definitely a riper than normal year at Bien Nacido, and the resulting wine also has quite a bit of structure and depth. Of the three years Sandler has been working with Bien Nacido, 2010 was the ripest in flavor, due to the massive August/September heat wave, 2011 was the lightest and most aromatic, due to the cool growing season, and 2012 is somewhere in between. The aromas are more earthy and mushroom-like than they are fruity, but the density on the palate shows off the warm growing year of 2012. This is a Pinot built for aging, and it should last at least 12 years.

