

2014 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir

Harvest date: 9-2-14

Fermentation: 100% destemmed, 21 days in the fermenter

Aging: 11 months in used French oak

Bottling date: 7-22-15

Alcohol: 14.2%

Bien Nacido Vineyard was the only site where we saw a larger than normal crop in 2014. The second year of severe drought with a spring and summer of well above normal temperatures had no adverse effect on the amount of fruit at Bien Nacido. We harvested 3.7 tons on this one acre of old vine Pinot, planted in 1973. It was the earliest vintage I've ever seen there, and the grapes were ripe by September 2nd.

As far as the style of the wine goes, it's an easy comparison to the 2012 Bien Nacido. It's not as lean and elegant as the 2011, nor as big as the super ripe 2010 and 2013 Sandler versions. This 2014 has good weight and structure on the palate, but it should be drinking well very soon, as early as the winter of 2016. Bien Nacido Pinots tend to age for a decade or more, and the 2014 should last beyond 2024.

