

# BIEN NACIDO & SOLOMON HILLS

- ESTATE WINES -

*2020 Vintage Releases*



ARMIT WINES

## About The Estates

*"No question the best sections of Bien Nacido are the American equivalent of Grand Cru sites"*  
**Antonio Galloni**

We are delighted to release the 2020 vintage from lauded Californian icon Bien Nacido Estate and Solomon Hills Estate.

### Bien Nacido Estate Vineyard

Bien Nacido Vineyard is considered the Heart & Soul of Santa Barbara wine country, and the primary vineyard source for many wonderful wineries. Some of these cult classics like Sine Qua Non, Au Bon Climat, Qupé and Ojai vineyards have been world renowned for decades. The Miller family, who own the vineyard have been growing grapes on the Bien Nacido vineyards since 1969, with some of California's only ungrafted Phylloxera-free vines. For 35 years they chose only the best wineries to sell their fruit to, before finally choosing to make their own wines under the Estate label in 2006. They keep just 2% of the fruit, from the best plots to produce a range of wines under their own label, Bien Nacido Estate – wines which truly represent the identity of this iconic vineyard. Bien Nacido Estate has been seen on lists that reference Romanée Conti, Montrachet, Lavaux St Jacques and Cannubi. In 2021, Wine Enthusiast lauded Bien Nacido Vineyard as one of the 10 most important vineyards in the world.

### Solomon Hills Estate Vineyard

The Solomon Hills vineyard provides a second jewel to the crown of this iconic estate. This is the most westerly vineyard in Santa Maria, and is also one of the coolest areas in the valley, creating elegant wines that will appeal to lovers of the greatest wines of Burgundy at a fraction of the price. These Estate grown and produced wines are a testament to the family's dedication to this site with ultimate control over not only the fruit that goes into their wines but every other step along the way to the enjoyment of what is in the bottle. The wines are made from the best fruit that this iconic, cool-climate vineyard has to offer and are pure, expressions of the terroir.

*"Bien Nacido is best known as a historic vineyard that has played an important role in the development of America wine by supplying ambitious winemakers with top-notch fruit since the 1970s. But Bien Nacido also makes wines under its own label. Today, they are among the finest in California. Simply put, Bien Nacido Estate is now one of the hottest wineries in California. Readers owe it to themselves to check out these superb, handcrafted wines."*

Antonio Galloni, Vinous

## The 2020 Vintage

After a decent winter with 10.5" of rain, the 2020 vintage turned into one of the warmest winemaker Anthony Avila had seen in the Santa Maria Valley. The typical cold, windy Spring conditions were nowhere to be found with temperatures in early March consistently reaching over 25 degrees Celsius. For Pinot Noir and Syrah, this resulted in an almost perfect fruit set with full clusters and very little, if any, shot berries or millerandage. Chardonnay flowering was caught in a late Spring rain that left some of the clusters with shatter, but the set was overall decent.

As the season progressed from Spring into Summer the warm conditions continued. There was almost no June gloom to speak of, allowing for temperate mornings and afternoon temperatures to reach 30 degrees. The higher temperatures, coupled with irrigation, caused the berries in the fully set clusters to swell and deliver a large vintage. The large berries had very thin skins and a high juice-to-skin ratio. Towards the end of September, they saw temperatures climb to record-breaking levels. The vineyards experienced several days during harvest when the high temperatures were above 40 degrees, which is unprecedented in the Santa Maria Valley.

Nonetheless, the final wines are elegant, aromatically showy, lower in alcohol, light-bodied, and less tannic than we have seen in colder vintages across all the varieties the team works with at the Estate.



95  
points

Wine Advocate

95  
points

Wine Advocate

94  
points

Wine Advocate

## Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Chardonnay

£322.60 per 6x75cl IB

"The 2020 Chardonnay Estate comes from the own-rooted old vines planted in 1973. It has pretty scents of golden apples, burnt lemon peel, dried tarragon and lots of spicy accents with a gentle creaminess in the background. Medium-bodied and satiny, the palate boasts concentrated citrus underpinned by sparks of mineral character and bright acidity, finishing long and mineral driven."

94 points, Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

## Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Pinot Noir

£433.90 per 6x75cl IB

"The 2020 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard comes from across the estate and was matured in about 45% new oak. Grapes were entirely destemmed this year. "I was really worried about smoke taint," winemaker Anthony Avila says. "It's said that you must discard all the green parts of the plant. It was the right choice, and I'd do it again." Instead of using whole clusters, "We kept our foot on the gas in terms of extraction," Avila explains. "We did more punch downs and longer pump overs." Medium ruby in color, the Bien Nacido Pinot Noir features intense aromas of cranberry sauce, blood orange, mushroom, tar and forest floor with accents of cinnamon and licorice. The medium-bodied palate is super silky and loaded with sweet berry preserves. Its oak spices are well integrated, its acidity bright, and it finishes long and spicy."

95 points, Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

## Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Syrah

£354.50 per 6x75cl IB

"The 2020 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard comes from Block Z where there are a few Viognier vines interplanted with Syrah, and all the grapes are co-fermented. Deep ruby-purple in color, the nose offers classic tar and violet with a core of blueberry jam and touches of powdered sugar, salami and cracked pepper. The palate is full-bodied and powerful with loads of rounded tannins, integrated freshness and a long, perfumed finish streaked with botanical nuances. About 250 cases were made."

95 points, Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

98  
points  
Wine Advocate

95  
points  
Wine Advocate



Solomon Hills Estate  
2020 Pinot Noir

£433.60 per 6x75cl IB

"The 2020 Pinot Noir Solomon Hills Estate has a medium ruby color and fantastic botanical accents that give this wine its own singular personality. Pure strawberry and raspberry are accented with wafts of lemon peel, wild mint, juniper and dried herbs, continuing to unfold as it airs in the glass. Medium-bodied, uber silky and fresh, it features concentrated berry fruits and a wave of herbal nuances across the long finish."

98 points, Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

Solomon Hills Estate  
2020 Chardonnay

£322.60 per 6x75cl IB

"The 2020 Chardonnay Solomon Hills Estate comes from the colder of Bien Nacido's two estates. It's located eight miles west of Bien Nacido and is the westernmost vineyard in the Santa Maria appellation. Vines are planted in beach sand, and there are no mountains to block sea breezes, so it is an especially cold, windy, foggy site. Matured in 40% new French oak, it opens with some toasty nuances and flinty streaks, with a core of white peach, lemon-lime, saline and acacia. The palate is ultra tangy and energetic with bursts of concentrated, mouthwatering citrus and a very long, mineral-driven finish."

95 points, Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

*Previous Releases  
From Bien Nacido Estate*

2018 "The Captain" Pinot Noir, The Pillar Series

£469.20 per 6x75cl IB

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2018 "The XO" Syrah, The Pillar Series

£469.20 per 6x75cl IB

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2015 "Old Vines" Pinot Noir, The Pillar Series

£469.30 per 6x75cl IB

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You can purchase the wines from Bien Nacido and Solomon Hills Estate from our website. If you have any queries or would like to discuss the new releases, please contact our Private Client Team at [clients@armitwines.co.uk](mailto:clients@armitwines.co.uk).

## Contact Us

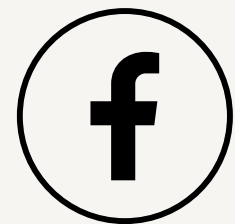
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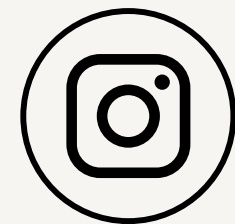
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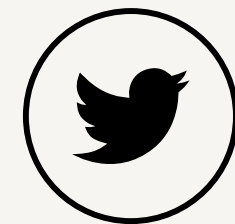
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