



2015 Chardonnay

BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD
SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Winery History

In 1972, the Zaca Mesa property was purchased by a group of friends. With few other vineyards to learn from, the vineyard was originally planted in 1973 with numerous grape varieties to see what would work. By the late-80s we had determined based on our farming experience that the Rhône varieties grew best on our property. Since then we have focused our efforts on growing world-class examples of Syrah and other Rhône varieties through meticulous farming and traditional winemaking techniques.

The Homage Collection

This collection of four wines is a tribute to the grapes once produced here at Zaca Mesa. We have selected several iconic Santa Barbara County vineyards that produce fruit of the highest distinction and quality. These vineyards represent the pinnacle of each varietal, just as Zaca Mesa Vineyards represents the pinnacle of California Rhône-style varietals.

The Bien Nacido Vineyard is located in the Santa Maria Valley. A mere 20 miles for the ocean, the cold Pacific air combined with complex soils make this historic vineyard ideal for growing some of Santa Barbara County's most highly prized cool climate varietals.

Growing Season and Harvest

2015 was the fourth consecutive year of drought in Santa Barbara. A warm and dry winter led to an early-February bud-break. Spring was generally quite warm, but the month of May brought cool and windy weather, interrupting pollination and leading to a small crop. Warmer ocean temps influenced by El Niño had a big impact on our summer weather, amplifying the summer-time heat and limiting our typical night-time cooling. This accelerated the grapes development and led to our earliest harvest on record.

Winemaking

These Chardonnay grapes were hand-picked and sorted in the vineyard. Once they arrived at the winery they were whole cluster pressed and raked into a combination of French oak Sirugue and D&J barrels for barrel fermentation. Post-fermentation, two barrels were inoculated and allowed to go through malo-lactic fermentation. After a ten month élevage the wine was cold stabilized, gently filtered and bottled.

The Wine

The Chardonnay grape has a long history at Zaca Mesa Winery & Vineyards. It dates back to the original planting of Zaca Vineyards in 1973 and has been an integral part of our program since those early years.

Our 2015 Chardonnay expresses a rich mélange of stone, tropical and citrus fruits that accompany a classic Burgundian example of the grape. A delicate touch of oak and honey butter helps to round out the wine's complex layers.

~ Eric, Kristin, Agustin, Ruben, Jose, Angel, Gregorio & Ramirez
Winemaking and Vineyard team



TECHNICAL NOTES

Vineyard Blocks	Bien Nacido Vineyard: Block L
Composition	100% Chardonnay— Clone 4, Planted in 1973
Harvest	September 18th, 2015
Cooperage	10 months in 27% new French Oak
Bottled	July 30, 2016
Total Acidity	0.737 g/100 mL
PH	3.31
Alcohol	14.2%
Production	352 cases