

VILLA^{MT.} EDEN

2005 GRAND RESERVE CHARDONNAY BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD

WINEMAKERS TASTING NOTES

“An affable cream-hazelnut aroma wafts along bearing flowers and ripe fruit. The juicy, ripe fruit flavors gradually introduce butterscotch wafers and toast. Lively and clean, the overall effect is an attractive, enjoyable quaff that urges a repeat sip.”

– Mike McGrath, Winemaker

VINEYARDS

- The 2005 growing season started with wet weather followed by a dry period in March. Precipitation in the Santa Maria Valley continued well into spring delaying bloom and set on the vine.
- The cool weather continued into the summer months which were moderate with a few heat spikes. Early autumn brought a string of warm days developing well-balanced sugars and acids in the fruit.
- At harvest, Chardonnay grapes had wonderful aromatics due to the extended hang time on the vine.
- Bien Nacido Vineyard has been the source for the Grand Reserve Chardonnay since 1992.
- The Santa Maria Valley runs east to west and opens toward the Pacific Ocean, resulting in cool evening temperatures – ideal for maintaining Chardonnay fruit’s crisp acids.
- The site’s Pacific Ocean breezes, moderate temperatures and long growing season allow Chardonnay grapes to develop concentrated aromas and flavors, while retaining crisp acidity.

WINEMAKING

- Hand-picked grapes were whole-cluster pressed to preserve intense, ripe flavors.
- Fermented in French oak barrels (33% new) with medium heavy toast.
- Malolatic fermentation followed to soften the acids and add a creamy, caramel element.
- Nine months of barrel aging *sur lie* with regular stirring integrated the oak and fruit flavors.

HERITAGE of ACCLAIM

- Double Gold and Best in Class – *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition (2004 vintage)
- Silver Medal and Critics Award – Critics Challenge International, San Diego (2003 vintage)
- 90 pts – *Wine Enthusiast* (2002 vintage)
- 90 pts. And Top 100 – *Wine Spectator* (2001 vintage)



TECHNICAL DATA

<i>Total Acidity</i>	0.70g /100ml
<i>pH</i>	3.32
<i>Alcohol</i>	14.7%
<i>Blend</i>	100% Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay

FOOD PAIRINGS

- Chicken piccata with capers
- Butternut squash and spinach pasta
- Pork tenderloin with spiced sweet potatoes
- Shrimp and pineapple skewers

