

QUPÉ

A Modern Stone Age Winery

**2008 SYRAH
BIEN NACIDO X BLOCK
SANTA MARIA VALLEY**

NOTES This is a big intense wine for a Qupé Syrah, clearly California and clearly cool climate Bien Nacido but with a distinct old world aspect from the whole clusters. This wine should easily age for 20 years.

VINEYARDS This wine is 100% syrah from the X Block at Bien Nacido Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley. X Block is the original Syrah vineyard at Bien Nacido, planted in 1973 to riesling and then grafted to Syrah in 1987, all Estrella clone. When the vines got to be about 30 years old they started behaving like older vines...naturally setting smaller crops with small intense berries. Beginning in 2005 the X Block has been farmed using biodynamic protocol.

WINEMAKING These grapes were harvested on October 7th at 24.7° brix, with 7.4 acidity and 3.37 pH. 100% whole clusters were put into small open top fermenters and manually punched down (which is not easy with whole clusters). The wine was aged exclusively in Ermitage French oak barrels to give it a different oak profile than our Hillside bottling, 60% were new and 40% were once used. The wine was kept in the new barrels for the first year and then racked and returned to neutral barrels for another 8 months, 20 months total barrel time. The wine was fined with organic egg whites and bottled without filtration.

BOB LINDQUIST, WINEMAKER



ALCOHOL: 13.5%