



2010 Chardonnay-Bien Nacido Y Block

The old Y Block is gone, this is the new Y. The original Y Block at Bien Nacido was planted in 1973, mostly to gewurztraminer on its own roots, then grafted to chardonnay in the mid '80s. Earlier in this past decade the vines started to decline to a point of diminishing returns and in 2005 a new Y Block was planted to replace it. The old Y Block was planted on gravelly riverbank soils opposite the winery, the new Y Block is planted on gravelly riverbank soil behind the winery. The old Y Block was all UC Davis clone 4, a high acid clone that thrives in the Santa Maria Valley, the new Y Block is planted mostly to UCD clone 4 but with significant plantings of Dijon clones 76 and 96 which ripen at lower sugars and add complexity. The wine is made the same way its always been made...whole cluster pressed, chilled overnight and then racked straight to barrel for fermentation and 100% malo. About 25% new Francois Freres Burgundy barrels were used, aging on the lees, without racking for the full 9 months that the wine was in barrel. 2010 was a very cool vintage and we harvested the grapes for this wine in 8 different lots between the 21st of September and the 11th of October. Fresh, crisp with classic Bien Nacido aromas and flavors and a balanced 13.8% alcohol. Bottled in early June 2011.