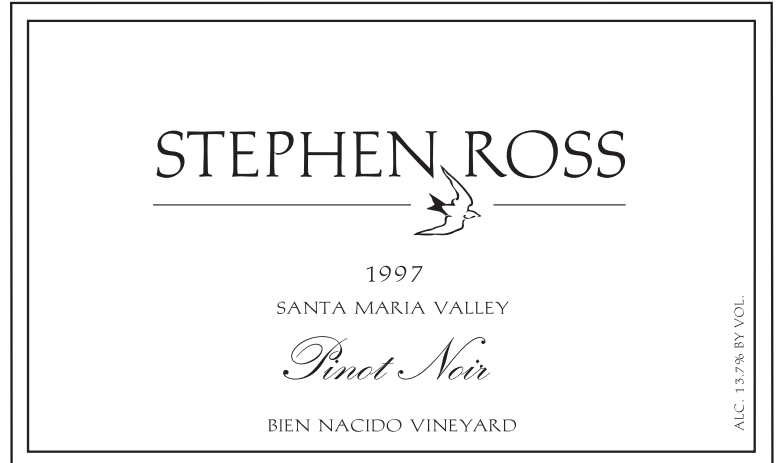


1997

SANTA MARIA VALLEY

PINOT NOIR

BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD



- Harvested by Hand on September 13, 1997
- 100% Destemmed, and Crushed into Small 1.5 ton (4' by 4') Fermentation Tanks
- 12 Day *Cuvaison*/Skin contact;
 - 5 Day Cold Soak @ 50° F
 - 5 Day Fermentation, punched down 4 times per day, peak temperature 95° F
 - 2 Day Post Fermentation and Settling
- Aged in French Oak Barrels, Tonnellerie François Frères, 50% new, 50% once-used
- Racked three times for clarity
- Bottled Unfined and Unfiltered on September 1, 1998

The Santa Maria Valley is a great place to grow Pinot Noir due to its cool climate, sandy loam, and well drained soils. The Stephen Ross 1997 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir has attractive, forward, red berry fruit aromas with a hint of white pepper, and is soft and supple on the palate. This wine is a classic example of the old axiom that when a winemaker has great fruit with which to work, his job is very easy.

148 cases produced.