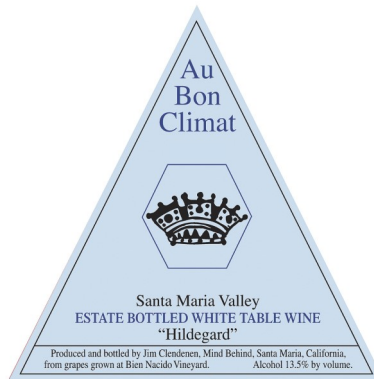




Jim Clendenen, the Mind Behind Au Bon Climat, is one of the founding winemakers in Santa Barbara County. He has been making benchmark wines under his own label since 1982. Although Jim owns his own vineyard, Le Bon Climat, at the Southern end of the Santa Maria Valley, he also sources grapes from many of the most historically significant vineyards throughout the Santa Barbara County and beyond. Jim specializes in crafting well-balanced artisan quality Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.



Au Bon Climat 2018 “Hildegard” White Blend

(55% Pinot Gris, 40% Pinot Blanc, 5% Aligote)

Santa Maria Valley, California

- The cepage for this wine is based on Jim Clendenen’s research of the original planting at the Corton Charlemagne Vineyard and is names in homage to Charlemagne’s wife Hildegard. Legend tells us that she was the impetus to this historic “re-planting” of a section of the Grand Cru Corton Vineyard to white varieties.
- This wine is a blend of Pinot Beurot (a Burgundian clone of Pinot Gris) and Pinot Blanc grown at Bien Nacido Vineyard in plantings developed for Au Bon Climat, as well as Aligote grown at Jim’s own Le Bon Climat Vineyard.
- The grapes are hand-picked, whole cluster pressed, and barrel fermented in all new François Freres French oak barrels.
- Each lot finishes malo-lactic fermentation and is aged sur lie unblended for 12 months.
- The wine is then racked, blended, and returned to barrel for a second year of aging.
- Before bottling the wine is lightly fined, but unfiltered.