



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 “Nuits-Blanches au Bouge” Chardonnay

Santa Maria Valley, California



- This is Jim Clendenen’s tête du cuvee Chardonnay.
- *The word, or in this case expression, on the label changes each vintage , but is always the first impression Jim gets when he tastes the new vintage of “Nuits Blanches” Chardonnay. This vintage is in memory of Archie McLaren.*
- This wine is 100% Chardonnay sourced from the two estate vineyards—90% from the Bien Nacido Vineyard “K Block” and 10% from Jim’s own Le Bon Climat Vineyard, both located in the Santa Maria Valley at an elevation of about 500 feet.
- The “K Block” at Bien Nacido is one of the original blocks planted in the early 70’s with UC Davis clone 4. The younger Le Bon Climat vines are planted to Dijon clones 76 and 96.
- The fruit is carefully handpicked and sorted in the vineyard.
- The fruit is 100% whole-cluster pressed then chilled and settled overnight.
- The juice is barrel fermented in 100% new Francois Freres French oak barrels.
- Undergoes complete malolactic fermentation.
- The wine is aged surlee for 18 months.
- Bottled unfiltered.