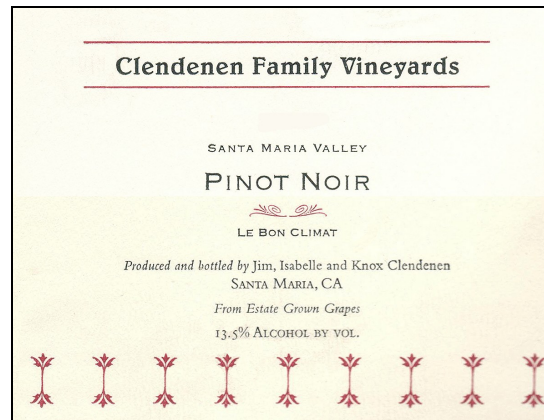

Clendenen Family Vineyards

Jim Clendenen introduced the **Clendenen Family Vineyards** label in 2000 to explore making experimental wines from unique varietals grown primarily on Jim's own organically farmed Le Bon Climat Vineyard. The project has since expanded to include special plantings at his Rancho La Cuna Vineyard and Bien Nacido Vineyard, as well as other historic vineyard sites in Santa Barbara County.



Clendenen Family “Le Bon Climat” Pinot Noir **“Le Bon Climat Vineyard”** *Santa Maria Valley, California*

- This cuvee is 100% Pinot Noir sourced from Jim Clendenen's own certified organic Le Bon Climat Vineyard planted in 1998 in the Santa Maria Valley. Located on the southern border of the Santa Maria Valley overlooking the Santa Maria River, the cool Pacific Ocean air runs right up the valley to Le Bon Climat.
- Le Bon Climat was planted with low vigor rootstock in poor soil. This combination of factors destined this vineyard to be slow growing and low yielding. The soil, clone and rootstock combination at Le Bon Climat produces two tons per acre average.
- Most of the vineyard is planted with clone 667 Pinot Noir, with some 777, 115, 2A and even a little Mt.Eden clone.
- The two best lots of Pinot Noir from Le Bon Climat are blended for this bottling.
- The second lot was picked later allowing extra time on the vine for the stems of the clusters to lignify. During lignification the green stems turn brown and woody. These whole clusters, are left in the fermentation. Jim Clendenen likes to include whole clusters when possible because the fermentation is slower, since the grapes are still intact, and the stems in the fermenter add a layer of complexity.
- After fermentation the wine was aged in 100% new Francois Frères French oak barrels.