

## **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 Vineyards 2014 Pinot Noir**

**75% Rancho La Cuna Vineyard**

**25% Le Bon Climat Vineyard**

*Santa Barbara County, California*

- This cuvee is 75% Pinot Noir from Jim's own Rancho La Cuna Vineyard (RLC) in Los Alamos, 10 miles southwest of his winery.
  - This is the third Pinot Noir vineyard planted by Jim Clendenen. He planted this Pinot Noir in the early 2000s.
  - Mainly planted with clone 115 with a small amount of 828.
  - After 10 years of production the RLC Pinot Noirs are really starting to express distinct complexity.
- The remaining 25% of Pinot Noir comes from Jim's own Le Bon Climat Vineyard located on the southern border of the Santa Maria Valley AVA, overlooking the Santa Maria River.
  - The cool Pacific Ocean air runs right up the Valley to Le Bon Climat. Most days the breeze from the ocean is evident before noon. The day time highs seldom get above 85 degrees Fahrenheit, and most days the highs are around the mid-70's.
  - Le Bon Climat was planted in 1997 with low vigor rootstock in poor soil. This combination of factors destined this vineyard to be slow growing and low yielding. Most of the vineyard is planted with clone 667 Pinot Noir, with some 777, 115, 2A and even a little Mt.Eden clone.
- The fruit is hand-picked, and processed soon after harvest. The grapes arrive at the winery cool, are processed cool, and slowly fermented.
- After fermentation the wine was aged in 100% new Francois Frères French oak barrels.
- Aged for 24 months and then bottled without filtration.

#### ***Press:***

***96 points—Wine Enthusiast***

***92 points—Wine Spectator***

***92 points—Vinous Media***

***92 points—Jeb Dunnuck***