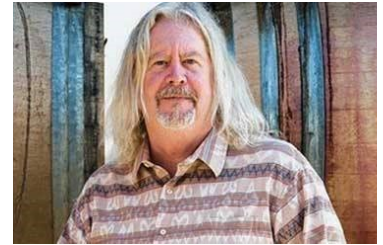




Clendenen Family Vineyards

Jim Clendenen

“The Mind Behind”



Jim Clendenen is the most iconic, founding winemaker in California's Central Coast. To put it in perspective when Jim founded Au Bon Climat (ABC) winery in 1982 there were only about a dozen wineries in Santa Barbara County; of that original dozen ABC, is one of the last to remain family owned today.

After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with honors in a pre-law program in 1976, Jim rewarded himself with a month in Burgundy and Champagne. After this trip Jim Clendenen abandoned what would likely have been an illustrious courtroom career for his new passion—to make great wine.

While in college, Santa Barbara was only in the infancy stage of becoming an exciting new wine region. Jim returned to Santa Barbara and after voraciously learning all that he could as a cellar rat, he soon found himself promoted to Assistant Winemaker at Zaca Mesa (1978), one of the first serious wineries in the region.

Shortly thereafter, in 1982, Jim founded Au Bon Climat (a colloquial French reference to “a well exposed vineyard”) with his former partner Adam Tolmach (they went their separate ways in 1990), originally operating out of an old dairy barn on the Los Alamos Vineyard.

In 1989, Robert Parker included Au Bon Climat on a “short list” of “Best Wineries in the World” – a very significant achievement for a winery only 7 years old! And was just the first of many accolades to come.

ABC was an excellent showcase for fruit grown at Bien Nacido Vineyard, one of the preeminent sites being es-

tablished in the Santa Maria Valley. Jancis Robinson in her book “American Wine” refers to it as true “Grand Cru” quality. In a desire to solidify this symbiotic relationship the Miller Family, who owns Bien Nacido, invited Jim to occupy a winery built for him on the vineyard in 1988. An offer too good to be true, or to pass up. He has been making wine there ever since.

Jim has cultivated an international reputation for world class Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, sourced from some of the best vineyards throughout the Central Coast, often drawing comparisons to their counterparts from Burgundy—Jim's first love. He also enjoys experimenting with many other varietals he feels thrive in the region and benefit from his deft hand in the cellar. These include: Pinot Gris, Aligote, Tocai Friulano, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, Chenin Blanc, Grenache Gris, Mondeuse, Nebbiolo, Petit Verdot, Grenache, Toraldigo, and Syrah.

Jim has personally planted many of these varietals either in one of his own vineyards (Le Bon Climat and Rancho La Cuna) or at Bien Nacido through a unique arrangement with the Miller family. In 2000, Jim created Clendenen Family Vineyards to accommodate this myriad of small artisan projects, that truly express his deep passion for winemaking.

Item # Au Bon Climat

AU0115 '15 Pinot Gris / Pinot Blanc

AU0215 '15 Santa Barbara Chardonnay



AU0314 '14 "Sanford & Benedict" Chardonnay

94 VIN, 92 WA

The first “great” vineyard in Santa Barbara County was planted by Richard Sanford and Michael Benedict in 1971. Jim was one of the first winemakers to have access to working with this “Grand Cru” quality fruit in the mid 1980's and that relationship has continued each vintage since, including fruit from the original plantings.



AU2213 '13 "Nuits-Blanches au Bouge" Chardonnay

94 VIN, 93 WE, 92 WA

In the early 1990s the bigger Chardonnays from “up north” were getting all the attention. Jim knew he could make that style Chardonnay in Santa Barbara, so he produced “Nuits-Blanches” in 1996 to “show off” the exceptional grape quality at Bien Nacido Vineyard. “Nuits Blanches” translates as a white night, or a night of no sleep.

This Chardonnay is sourced 90% from Block “K” at Bien Nacido, one of the original blocks planted in the early 1970s, and 10% from Jim's own “Le Bon Climat” across the Santa Maria River. Aged 18 months in new Francois Freres French oak barrels. The richness is tempered by cool climate acidity and complexity - resulting in a balance of power and elegance.



AU0514 '14 "Hildegard" White Blend

The cépage for this wine is based on Jim's research of the original planting at the Corton Charlemagne Vineyard circa 800AD and is named in homage to Charlemagne's wife Hildegard. Legend tells us that she was the “nagging” impetus to this historic “re-planting” of a section of the Grand Cru Corton Vineyard to white varietals (50% Pinot Gris, 40% Pinot Blanc, 10% Aligote).

Item # **Au Bon Climat**

AU0616 '16 Santa Barbara Pinot Noir



AU0713 '13 "La Bauge Au-dessus" Pinot Noir

92 VIN

"La Bauge Au-dessus" translates colloquially as "the wild Burgundian party upstairs". This Pinot Noir is sourced exclusively from the two estate vineyards - Bien Nacido where the winery is located and Jim's own Le Bon Climat.



AU0821 '11 "Barham Mendelson" Pinot Noir

*This is a special project from a partnership Jim formed with Barbara Barham and Richard Mendelsohn. In 1998 the Mendelsohn's planted 5 acres of Pinot Noir on Lala Panzi Ranch in the **Russian River Valley** practicing certified organic viticulture. After the Mendelsohn's interviewed a short list of the top Pinot Noir winemakers in CA, they selected Jim Clendenen who shared their vision of clonal diversity and food and wine culture. Sonoma fruit through the lens of "Jim". (500cs produced)*



AU1123 '13 "Knox Alexander" Pinot Noir

96 WE, 95 VIN, 92 WA

Introduced in 1998 and named in honor of his son. This Pinot Noir is comprised of the finest lots from the two estate vineyards - Bien Nacido where the winery is located and Jim's own Le Bon Climat. Both vineyards are in the cool Santa Maria Valley, separated only by the Sisquoc River, and have devigorated vines planted in well drained poor soils, which produce very distinctive, intense yet balanced Pinot Noir.



AU1223 '13 "Isabelle" Pinot Noir

92 VIN, 91 WA

"Isabelle" was introduced in 1994 to honor the birth of Jim's daughter. This bottling is always a selection of the best Pinot Noir barrels each vintage - including lots sourced from at least six different vineyards. These vineyards range from two in Northern CA - one in Anderson Valley in Mendocino, the other in Russian River - and another five or six top sites throughout the Central Coast. One of Jim's best expressions of Pinot Noir uniquely must default to the broad AVA designation of "California".



Clendenen Family Vineyards is Jim's "artisan playground".

Almost all selections are between 50-200 case production.

Item # **Clendenen Family Vineyards**

JC1913 '13 Viognier

JC2122 '12 "Second Coming" Viognier

91 VIN

JC0115 '15 "Borgo Buon Natale" Tocai Friulano

JC1114 '14 Sauvignon Blanc

JC1814 '14 "The Pip" Chardonnay



JC0521 '11 "Le Bon Climat Vineyard" Chardonnay

92 WA

Jim's tête de cuvée Chardonnay sourced exclusively from his own Le Bon Climat Vineyard planted in 1998 in the Santa Maria Valley. Le Bon Climat is one of the first vineyards to be planted with Dijon clones in Santa Barbara County, grafted to devigorated rootstock this combination limits yields naturally. Aged 2 years in new Francois Freres French oak barrels.

JC1316 '16 Mondeuse Rosé



JC0621 '11 "Bricco Buon Natale" Nebbiolo

This wine is sourced from 2 acres of Nebbiolo planted in the 'Z Block' at Bien Nacido Vineyard in 1994 under Jim Clendenen's direction. The site is cool, breezy, and on a hillside where the soil is gravelly and shallow—all contributing to the intensity of the fruit. Jim selected the two best clones of Nebbiolo, Lampia and Michet. Aged a minimum of 5 years in one third new 500L Hungarian oak puncheons and racked once a year.



JC2028 '08 "Punta Exclamitiva" Nebbiolo

Jim began the "Punta Exclamitiva" project in 2004, once the Nebbiolo vines he planted at Bien Nacido Vineyard had reached 10 years of maturity. It is produced in minuscule quantities in only the best vintages. In this "Riserva-style" bottling Jim uses exclusively the lower yielding Michet clone and ages this wine in 100% new 500L Hungarian oak puncheons for 6 years.

JC0722 '12 Petit Verdot

JC0820 '10 "La Cuna" Syrah (90%)/Viognier (10%)

JC1215 '15 "The Pip" Pinot Noir



JC0923 '13 "Le Bon Climat Vineyard" Pinot Noir

96 WE, 93 VIN, 92 WA

Jim's tête de cuvée Pinot Noir sourced exclusively from his 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. The soil, clone and rootstock combination at Le Bon Climat produces two tons per acre average. Each year the two best lots from this vineyard are selected for this special bottling.