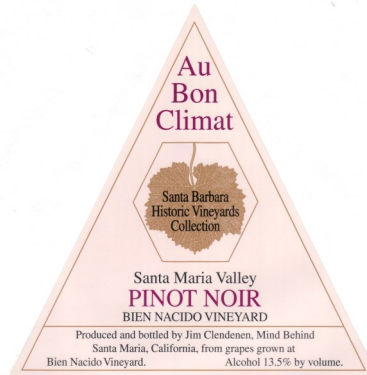*Jim Clendenen*, the Mind Behind **Au Bon Climat**, is one of the founding winemakers in Santa Barbara County. He has been making benchmark wines under his own label since 1982. Although Jim owns his own vineyard, Le Bon Climat, at the Southern end of the Santa Maria Valley, he also sources grapes from 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 "Bien Nacido Vineyard" Pinot Noir

Santa Maria Valley, California

Santa Barbara Historic Vineyard Collection

Au Bon Climat continues its homage to the many outstanding vineyards in Santa Barbara County with limited editions of its special designation Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays in their "Santa Barbara County Historic Vineyards Collection". Since its founding in 1982, Au Bon Climat has sourced grapes from some of the most celebrated vineyards on the Central Coast. Some might say that Clendenen himself has contributed significantly to the reputation of these sites.

- This bottling is 100% Pinot Noir sourced from Bien Nacido Vineyard, which is home to the Au Bon Climat winery. The Pinot Noir fruit from Bien Nacido for this wine is clone 115 from block 2.

- **Bien Nacido Vineyard**:
    - Located on the receiving end of the east-west transverse mountain range, Bien Nacido Vineyard is a maritime-influenced desert.
    - The morning fog cover and the cool afternoon breezes from the Pacific Ocean make this a Region 1 climate on the Winknler Scale.
    - The rainfall averages 12 – 14 inches a year.
    - The terrain is sand, chalk and marine loam that provides good drainage.
    - The whole package results in cool, slow ripening grapes, with longer hang-time on the vines.

- This wine was made using 55% stems

- Fermented in small open top fermenters that receive manual punch downs twice daily.

- Aged in Francois Freres French oak barrels, 100% new, for 20 months.

- The wine is lightly fined with egg whites as needed and bottled unfiltered.