



Clendenen Family Vineyards

2006

SANTA MARIA VALLEY

PINOT NOIR

LE BON CLIMAT

Produced and bottled by
Jim, Isabelle, and Knox Clendenen
From Estate Grown Grapes



from the inimitable **JIM CLENDENEN**

2004 Winemaker of the World *Wein Gourmet*

50 Most Influential Winemakers *Wine & Spirits Magazine*

50 World-Wide Creators of Modern Classic Wines *Oz Clarke*

2001 Winemaker of the Year *Food & Wine Magazine*

Best Wineries of the World (Au Bon Climat) *Robert M. Parker, Jr.*

CLENDENEN FAMILY VINEYARDS

S A N T A M A R I A V A L L E Y

Jim launched Clendenen Family estate in 2000 with tiny amounts of exceedingly special grapes harvested from his own meticulously-farmed home vineyard. Vinified in a highly personal fashion, these wines are unique statements and as distinctive and pleasurable on the palate as they are fascinating in an international context.

NEBBIOLO "Borgo Buon Natale"

This vineyard was planted to Lampeia & Micchet clones back in 1994. The grapes were vinified using techniques that Clendenen has isolated during more than 20 years making Nebbiolo in California: fermented and softened on skins for 3 weeks, small-barrel malo, extended oak aging (often 48 months).

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*: **94 points** *Jim Clendenen's 2006 Nebbiolo Bricco Buon Natale is a drop-dead gorgeous beauty. Orange peel, spice, dried cherries and menthol flesh out in a striking Nebbiolo endowed with purity and nuance. Frankly the 2006 is an eye-opening wine because of its superb varietal expression and overall balance. The 2006 spent 6 years in 500 liter barrels, with minimal rackings over that time. The vines were just 12 years old when the 2006 was made, so there is every reason to think and hope that subsequent vintages will be even better. What a gorgeous and complete wine this is."*

PETIT VERDOT Bien Nacido Vineyard

Long considered a mere blending grape, Petit Verdot is far and away the most successful Bordelais grape for Santa Maria Valley. Jim uses a slow, complete extraction fermentation in small, open-topped cuves, malolactic fermentation, and three years in 50% new Taransaud; fined but unfiltered. *Pronounced floral notes, strong depth, and medium, dusty tannins,*

SYRAH/VIOGNIER Rancho la Cune Vineyard

As hot climate stupid-sweet/short-and-flat Syrah recede in popularity, this thrilling Côte-Rôtie incarnation from Jim's organically-certified ranch near Los Alamos is a beacon to complexity, elegance and balance, as well as grape-variety integrity.

Josh Reynolds, *Vinous* on the 2008: **90 points** *"(a 90/10 blend): Inky ruby. Spice- and smoke-accented dark berries and licorice on the highly fragrant nose. Plush and open-knit, offering gently sweet blueberry and cherry compote flavors and a touch of cracked pepper. A floral note builds with air and carries through a long, gently tannic finish, which shows very good energy. This drinks very well now, especially with an hour or so of aeration."*

PINOT NOIR "The Pip"

This rich and powerful Pinot Noir value offers the depth, concentration, and energy that is the natural result of careful, thoughtful viticulture with meagre yields of 2 tons/acre (1500 vines/acre). *Red fruit character, with notes of subtle earth and hard spice, strike a balance between generosity and fineness.*

Josh Reynolds, *Vinous* on the 2012: **90 points** *"Vivid ruby-red. Spice- and smoke-accented red berry and cherry pit aromas show good energy and a hint of orange zest. Gently sweet and expansive on the palate, offering juicy raspberry and cherry-cola flavors and a touch of white pepper. The spicy quality comes back on the finish, which lingers with very good persistence and silky, slow-building tannins."*

PINOT NOIR La Bon Climat Vineyard

Certified-organic Le Bon Climat vineyard is an elevated mesa planted in 1998 to Dijon 667. Jim spent more than 5 years searching for a sweet spot for a unique, supreme Pinot to complement his finest bottlings. Aged 2 years in new, heavily-toasted François Freres; bottled unfiltered. *Jim Clendenen: "The wine is firmly in the red fruit spectrum with earth, sous bois and hard spice complexity. This is a stylish, traditional pinot destined to appeal to all lovers of Cru Burgundy who are perplexed by purple, gassy pinot, bottled too early, sold too early, and quite undrinkable."*

Antonio Galloni's *Vinous* on the 2010: **93 points** *"Exotic spices, orange peel, leather and cedar wrap around a core of intense Pinot fruit in the 2010 Pinot Noir Le Bon Climat. A wine of power and breadth, the 2010 is at the early part of its drinking window. The 2010 is all about intense aromatics and beautifully layered fruit. Hints of cedar and tobacco add the closing shades of nuance."* Antonio Galloni's *Vinous* on the 2007: **93 points** *"striking in its beauty... marvelous depth."*

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