



Bien Nacido releases own-label wine

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by David Furer

California's renowned Bien Nacido Vineyards are releasing their first own label wines this autumn.

In September, 425 cases of BNV Syrah 2007, BNV Pinot Noir 2007, and a 2008 Chardonnay from Bien Nacido's Solomon Hills Vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills will be released.

They will be available in California and New York at US\$43.

The Bien Nacido vineyards belong to the Miller family, which since 1969 has farmed some of California's most sought-after grapes from 600 acres of vines in Santa Barbara's Santa Maria Valley.

Clients include some of the most renowned names in California: Au Bon Climat, Byron, Fess Parker, Foxen, Gary Farrell, Qupé and Sine Qua Non among many others, with a healthy waiting list.

Vineyard blocks, some exclusive to notable clients, are identified by single letters or numbers.

Asked what took them so long to set about bottling their own wines, Nicholas Miller told **decanter.com**, 'We're growers first and foremost, but my dad and my late uncle wanted to leave something for the next generation.'

Miller, 30, has made wines since the 2005 vintage but only decided to commercialise his label with the impending releases. Miller's brother Marshall joined the winery earlier this year.

The Santa Maria Valley has the most extended growing season of any California wine region, with bud break as early as February and harvests as late as early December.