

Deovlet, Bien Nacido Pinot Noir

- Exquisite, energetic and balanced Pinot Noir from this iconic American vineyard
 - Rising star winemaker setting new standards for quality
 - Very small production

The Producer

Ryan Deovlet is one of the most exciting new winemakers in the Central Coast. With each of his small-production Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, Deovlet strives to give identity to the vineyard, a nod to the old world and a kiss of fruit. Like new producers in Burgundy, Deovlet partners with vineyards as if he were the estate owner, controlling the whole process from vine to bottle with passion, artistry, and intuition.

His inspiration to make wine came unexpectedly in 2004 during a college vacation in Hawaii, when he tasted fresh coffee from a local coffee plantation. Having grown up with a green thumb, he was struck with the desire to create a product from the land. He quickly decided to pursue wine and embarked on a 4-year exploration to learn everything he could about making it.

Deovlet sought to learn first hand from great winemakers and viticulturists, gaining apprenticeships with Stephen Dooley of Stephen Ross Wine Cellars, David Ramey at Red Car Wine Company, and Paul Hobbs of Viña Cobos in Mendoza, Argentina. Through this work he developed a vision for managing vine balance—versus vineyard yields—to achieve optimal phenolic ripeness. He also gained conviction about being impeccable in the cellar, doing things by hand, and not being dogmatic about vinification. Thorough in every detail, Deovlet next studied his customer, taking the certified sommelier exam.

Deovlet returned to California in 2008 with the aspiration to start his own label. While developing estate projects for Santa Barbara clients (including Refugio Ranch, where he is now winemaker), he landed a vineyard parcel of his own at La Encantada from Sta. Rita Hills winemaking legend, Richard Sanford. He quickly showed himself to be a true partner of the vineyard by working together on farming techniques and producing outstanding wines that give the vineyard identity. That auspicious beginning led Deovlet to develop enduring partnerships with other prime vineyards in the Central Coast.

Today Deovlet produces Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from great vineyards in the Central Coast including La Encantada, Sanford & Benedict, Solomon Hills. Each wine is produced in very small quantities (200 cases or less). His second vintage, 2009, earned more than 90 points from Parker.

The Wine

Before his first vintage of this wine in 2010, Deovlet had worked in Bien Nacido from the beginning of his California winemaking career, making wines for Stephen Ross, Red Car and others. That experience helped him know exactly where he wanted to be in this diverse and iconic vineyard. Deovlet chose 2 distinct blocks—the Q block, where 30-40 year-old vines of Martini clone produce small and complex berries, and block 42, a steep hillside plot with new Dijon plantings that produces youthful, “jovial” and rich berries. The combination is at once energetic and elegant, with bouquets of flowers, spice and berries. To transcend the uneven growing season, Deovlet hired a crew to hand-sort the bunches at harvest time, eliminating imperfect berries one at a time, cluster by cluster before fermentation. The quality shows through instantly, and insiders are saying this vintage is even better than the last. Get it while you can!



Region: Central Coast

Appellation: Santa Maria Valley AVA

Vineyard: Bien Nacido

Altitude: 200-600'

Soil: sandy loam in Q / sandy loam and clay in 42

Varietal Blend: 100% Pinot Noir

Vine age: 5-40

Planting system: VSP

Vine density: 10' x 5' in Q/ 6' x 3' in 42

Farming: Organic

Yield: 2-3 tons/ acre

Harvest: Mid-September

Vinification: 5 day cold soak and 7 day fermentation with pump overs, pigeage, and punch downs; 20% whole cluster

Aging: 15 months, 100% French oak, 35% new

Production: 105 cases

Tasting Notes: A beautifully floral nose lifted with rose petal, cinnamon, pine, blood orange, cranberry, and black cherries. Perfectly ripe tannins provide structure and impressive depth.

Ratings (2010 vintage): 92 (RP)