

ON THE FENCE

2021 MERLOT

Varietal:
Merlot

AVA:
Santa Maria Valley

Vineyard:
Bien Nacido

Production:
146 cases made

Oak:
75% New French Oak

Time in Barrel:
24 months

Alcohol:
15.7%

Cellar potential:
8+ years

Release date:
September 16, 2023

ABOUT

Proprietor and winemaker Russell P. From began Herman Story Wines in 2001 with 7 barrels stashed in his employer's cellar. What started as a modest homage to his rancher grandfather has become a beacon to those seeking opulent, structured Syrah and Grenache. To maintain balance while giving flavor full stage, Russell works with 30 top-tier vineyards in over 7 distinct growing regions between Santa Barbara and Paso Robles. These are no nonsense, balls to the walls wines that are not for the faint of heart or the pinky raising set.



TASTING NOTES

This is the modish manager of the Magnificent Mile Kate Spade, decked head to toe in technical or glitz, chasing down a shoplifter. Satiny maraschino minidress, lavender-butter handbag, sleek satin stilettos dripping Damson plum preserves. Maple syrup chandelier earrings and perfect balsa-wood blowout, fluttering in her dead sprint to the door. She's the picture of regal grace, but when she catches up to the panic-stricken sunglass-snatcher, she lowers her shoulder and hits like a Mack truck.

NOTES

When Bien Nacido's Merlot vines met their end, it was the worst thing to happen to Santa Barbara Merlot since Sideways. These vines were old. As in: so old, no one knows exactly how old. They were gnarled, stubborn, and eked out tiny amounts of dark, voluptuous, velvety wine. So before they came out, I got my hands on their last crop. This is a literal relic of the past, a never-again bottle, and a tribute to a very special plot of vines. Every drop is inky, satiny gold—ridiculously plush and luxe, a wine for the indulgent epicure in all of us. Lay it down or drink it now, it'll impress either way.

SERVING

Temperature: 65° F

Decant: 1 hour

CONTACT

Winery & Tasting Room
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