

Au Bon Climat

Created in 1995 to honor the birth of Jim Clendenen's daughter, this wine represents the pinnacle of Au Bon Climat's Pinot Noir production .



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Isabelle Pinot Noir 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

This **multi-vineyard blend** sources fruit from some of the **finest Pinot Noir sites** in California. The **2020 vintage** includes grapes from:

- **Bien Nacido and Le Bon Climat** (Santa Maria Valley) – Contributing elegance and bright acidity.
- **Rancho La Cuna and Kick-On** (Los Alamos Valley - Santa Barbara County) – Adding depth and complexity.
- **Sanford & Benedict** (Sta. Rita Hills) – Known for its structured and mineral-driven Pinot Noir.
- **Lala Panzi** (Russian River Valley) – Bringing richness and a plush, fruit-forward character.

The diversity of these vineyards, spanning **cool-climate Santa Barbara County to the Russian River Valley**, allows for a **harmonious balance of freshness, depth, and aromatic complexity**.

Winemaking

The **best barrels from the top vineyard lots** are selected after extensive tastings over several months. Each vineyard's Pinot Noir is fermented separately in **open-top fermenters with manual punch-downs**, ensuring a **gentle extraction of tannins and flavors**.

The wine is then **aged for 22 months in 100% new François Frères French oak**, allowing for **seamless integration of oak influence and structure**. Gravity flow techniques are used instead of pumps to handle the wine delicately, maintaining its purity and finesse.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with a brilliant clarity.
- **Aroma:** Sweet red cherry, orange peel, spice, and dried herbs, with delicate floral undertones.
- **Palate:** Silky and elegant, with bright fruit, layers of spice, and fine-grained tannins. The wine's structure and balance suggest excellent aging potential.

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Did You Know?

Isabelle Pinot Noir is named after **Jim Clendenen's daughter**, reflecting his desire to create **a wine as unique and special as she is**. It was **Au Bon Climat's first high-end Pinot Noir blend**, challenging the winery's previous focus on single-vineyard expressions.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Filet mignon** – The wine's refined tannins and red fruit character complement the tenderness of the meat.
- **Lamb chops with red wine reduction** – The wine's spice and floral elements enhance the richness of the dish.
- **Classic Beef Bourguignon** – A natural pairing, as the wine's acidity and structure balance the dish's depth and umami flavors.



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2020)

The 2020 Pinot Noir Isabelle opens with iodine, underbrush and tea leaves over a core of wild red and black berries. The palate is light-bodied, supple and juicy, with fragrant, earth-laced fruit and a long finish. It opens with time in the glass, so it may benefit from 2-3 more years in bottle.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2019)

The late Jim Clendenen named this wine after his daughter, now a leader in her family winery, and he always made sure it was tip-top. This vintage hits the nose with pomegranate, rose-petal and light eucalyptus-leaf aromas, while the tense palate is brisk with roasted raspberry and pine-needle-tea flavors. (MK) (2/2022)



Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 95 Points (2018)

The lighter ruby-hued 2018 Pinot Noir Isabelle comes from a mix of sites and is all varietal that spent 24 months in 100% new French oak. A classic wine from this team, it offers lots of spiced red fruits, brambly herbs, flowers, and sandalwood in an ethereally textured, medium-bodied, incredibly elegant package. While it has bright acidity, it's beautifully balanced, has supple tannins, and a great finish. It's certainly not for those looking for blockbuster Pinot Noir, but it shines for its complexity, elegance, and nuances.

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