

90-92

2007 Bien Nacido Syrah



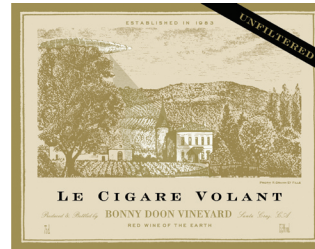
From: Santa Maria Valley
 Santa Barbara, Central Coast,
 California, USA
 Variety: Syrah
 Drink: 2009 - 2019
 Estimated Cost: \$40
 Source: WA, #184, Aug 2009

The 2007 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard is the first reassuring sign I have seen that the charismatic salesman Randall Grahm is finally recommitting himself to what he did so well in the eighties, but then cashed in and went for huge production rather than quality. This beautiful wine exhibits a dense purple color as well as sweet notes of graphite, blackberries, cassis, tapenade, and pepper in its pure, rich, textured, medium to full-bodied personality. It should drink well for a decade or more.

- Robert Parker

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2005 Le Cigare Volant



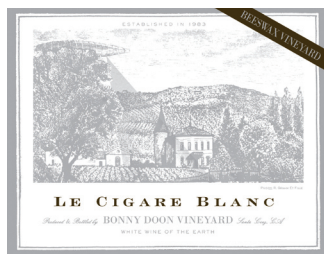
From: Santa Cruz, Central
 Coast, California, USA
 Variety: Rhone Blend
 Drink: 2009 - 2012
 Estimated Cost: \$32
 Source: WA, #184, Aug
 2009

The 2005 Cigare Volant (50% Grenache and the rest Mourvedre, Syrah, Carignan, and Cinsault) exhibits peppery, earthy, black currant and black cherry fruit, and medium body. This spicy, hedonistic vin de plaisir should be enjoyed over the next 2-3 years. Purchasers should treat it like a French Cotes du Rhone.

- Robert Parker

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2007 Le Cigare Blanc



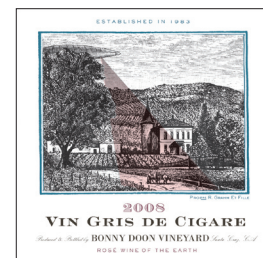
From: Central Coast,
 California, USA
 Variety: Proprietary Blend
 Drink: 2009 - 2011
 Estimated Cost: \$22
 Source: WA, #184, Aug
 2009

The delicious 2007 Le Cigare Blanc Beeswax Vineyard (nearly 2/3 Roussanne and the rest Grenache Blanc) offers a crisp, fresh nose of citrus blossoms, honeysuckle, and quince. Medium to full-bodied with good acidity, lots of personality, and an enticing texture, it should drink nicely for 1-2 years.

- Robert Parker

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2008 Vin Gris de Cigare



From: Santa Cruz, Central
 Coast, California, USA
 Variety: Rhone Blend
 Drink: 2009 - 2009
 Estimated Cost: \$15
 Source: WA, #184, Aug 2009

A consistently excellent rose, Bonny Doon's Vin Gris de Cigare lives up to expectations in 2008. Aromas of strawberries, cherries, and watermelon is followed by a crisp, fresh, fruity rose that is ideal for drinking over the next six months.

- Robert Parker