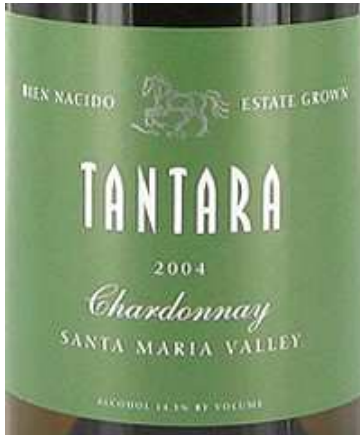


**WINE RECOMMENDATION**

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**Tantara Winery****2004 Chardonnay, Bien Nacido Vineyard (Block W)  
(Santa Maria Valley)**

Tantara was the second winery to be located on the flats of the [Bien Nacido Vineyard](#) property (Au Bon Climat/Qupé being the first). From the very beginning, the two partners in Tantara were committed to sourcing their grapes from only the best properties on the Central Coast. And needless to say, being located at Bien Nacido gives them easy and instant access to their contracted fruit when harvest time rolls around. Having direct contact with the on-site vineyard manager is also very helpful when deciding the exact time to pick their rows.

The 2004 Tantara Bien Nacido Chardonnay is a prototypical Chard from that vineyard with all the exemplary bells and whistles that you would expect from very cool climate Chard. Fermented equally in barrel and stainless steel (50/50), the wine spent thirteen months in oak (20 percent new French barrels) with periodic lees stirring. Rich and opulent on the palate, the wine is very fruit forward, billowing with pineapple, mango and caramel flavors. The added attraction here is a kind of buttered popcorn sheen that informs the flavors, giving them a further exotic lift into the next flavor dimension. Roasted chicken, stuffed with lemon, garlic and herbs would be a very satisfying food match up.

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**Purchase this wine as part of the [Bien Nacido Vineyards Collector's Case](#), a unique offering of 12 vineyard designated wines from 12 different winemakers.**

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Reviewed March 26, 2007 by [Dennis Schaefer](#).

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**THE WINE**

**Winery:** [Tantara Winery](#)

**Vineyard:** Bien Nacido Vineyard (Block W)

**Vintage:** 2004

**Wine:** Chardonnay

**Appellation:** [Santa Maria Valley](#)

**Grape:** [Chardonnay](#)

**Price:** \$35.00

**THE REVIEWER****Dennis Schaefer**

Dennis Schaefer has been tasting and writing about wine for over 30 years, propelled by a continuing curiosity and burgeoning enthusiasm for discovering what's in the bottle. Blessed with catholic tastes, he enjoys everything from the obvious to the sublime. A

major requirement is that the vineyard, winery and winemaker consistently perform well and fulfill their potential. Balance, concentration and complexity are key to the tasting experience but, in the end, the purpose of wine is simply to give pleasure.