WINE RECOMMENDATION

Trou de Bonde

2005 Pinot Blanc, *Bien Nacido Vineyard (Block D)*
(Santa Maria Valley)

Trou de Bonde is a small family owned winery on the Central Coast headed up by Clay Brock and his wife, Karen. Brock is a long time fixture here, having spent a number of years at Edna Valley Vineyards, before coming to Zaca Mesa and helping them refocus on their Rhone varietal heritage. Presently Trou de Bonde specializes in something completely different from either of those wineries: Pinot Blanc and then, only a single bottling drawn from Bien Nacido Vineyard's Block D.

2005 is the second vintage of this bottling and Brock says it has style elements of both Alsace and Burgundy. Aromas of peach and melon are evident; in the mouth, bright green apple flavors are supported by wood spice (15 percent new French oak), along with a hint of Alsatian petrol and zippy finishing acidity that is right on the mark. This is a delicious spring/summer wine that says "drink me, quaff me, now."

Purchase the 2004 inaugural release of Trou de Bonde's Pinot Blanc as part of the Bien Nacido Vineyards Collector's Case, a unique offering of 12 vineyard designated wines from 12 different winemakers.

Reviewed March 26, 2007 by Dennis Schaefer.

THE WINE

Winery: Trou de Bonde
Vineyard: Bien Nacido Vineyard (Block D)
Vintage: 2005
Wine: Pinot Blanc
Appellation: Santa Maria Valley
Grape: Pinot Blanc
Price: $18.00

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.