

The Wine Advocate Tasting Notes

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These latest releases from Calera are rock-solid across the board, and looking at the 2011 Pinot Noirs specifically, they show the best of the cooler vintage and are gorgeous wines. Starting with the two Chardonnays, these are both outstanding whites that represent serious value. Moving to the 2011s, these are beautiful wines across the board and show perfumed, fresh and lively profiles. — *Jeb Dunnuck*

YEAR WINE NAME RATING

Showing more tension and energy, the 2012 Chardonnay Mt. Harlan is an incredible effort that exudes ripe apple, white peach, white flowers and mint aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied and elegantly styled, the acidity is beautifully integrated, and the wine builds in richness and depth with time in the glass. Coming from limestone soils, 100% barrel-fermented and aged 10 months in 30% new French oak, it's a brilliant Chardonnay to drink over the coming 4-5 years. Drink 2014-2019.

2012 Calera Chardonnay Central Coast 90

Calera's 2012 Chardonnay Central Coast offers classic ripe apple and orchard fruits, creme and brioche in a medium-bodied, vibrant and clean style. Aged in 10% new French oak for 10 months, buy this beauty by the case and drink it over the coming couple of years. Drink 2014-2017.

2012 Calera Viognier Mt Harlan

Calera Chardonnay Mt Harlan

More tight and focused, with less overt Viognier qualities, the 2012 Viognier Mt. Harlan gives up impressive white peach, citrus blossom and tinges of minerality to go with a focused, clean and layered feel on the palate. Aged 10 months in 30% new French oak, it should blossom with another handful of months in bottle, and shine for 1-2 years. Drink 2014-2016.

2012 Calera Viognier Central Coast 89

Looking at the two Viogniers, the 2012 Viognier Central Coast is another rocking value to not be missed. Apricot, marmalade, orange blossom and flower oil-like aromas and flavors all flow nicely to a medium-bodied, richly textured white that's geared for enjoying over the coming year. Drink 2014-2015.

2013 Vin Gris Pinot Noir Central Coast

The 2013 Vin Gris of Pinot Noir is gorgeous. Coming from a saignee of Pinot Noir, it offers up a pretty, lively bouquet of tart cherries, watermelon and subtle flowers to go with a medium-bodied, elegant and focused feel on the palate. Possessing both richness and freshness, it can stand on its own nicely, but will also shine at the dinner table.

The only 2012 Pinot Noir I was able to taste, the straight 2012 Pinot Noir Central Coast is 95% destemmed and spent 11 months in 10% new French oak. A superb value, it gives up ripe berry fruits, flowers, underbrush and rose petal-like nuances in a medium-bodied, ripe, textured and balanced profile. It's a knockout quaffer to enjoy over the coming 2-4 years. Drink 2014-2018.

2011 Calera Pinot Noir de Villiers Vineyard 93

First up and seriously perfumed, the 2011 Pinot Noir de Villiers is a gorgeous wine that excels both for its complexity and for its richness and breadth on the palate. Giving up notes of ripe cherries, wild strawberries, exotic flowers, citron and spice, it has medium to full-bodied richness, a core of sweet fruit and a rich, seamless texture. In fact, it has a rare level of depth and texture in the vintage, and while beautiful today, I imagine it will evolve gracefully.

2011 Calera Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard 93

Slightly deeper and richer, yet also less expressive aromatically, the 2011 Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard offers a darker, earthier profile, with black cherry, underbrush, pepper and ground herbs giving way to hints of rose petal and spice with air. Medium to full-bodied, it has impressive richness in the vintage, as well as beautiful mid-palate density and a seamless texture. Overall, it's a structured effort that should be given another handful of years in the cellar, and consumed over the following decade. Drink 2014-2024.

The 2011 Pinot Noir Selleck is a brilliant 2011 that does everything right. Framboise, rose petal, sappy underbrush and spice all give way to an energetic, taut and vibrant-styled Pinot that has perfect balance and fine tannin structure. Fermented with 100% whole cluster and aged 18 months in 30% new French oak, it's a rocking effort to enjoy over the coming 5-7 years. Drink 2014-2021.

From a cool site, the 2011 Pinot Noir Reed offers a subtle, restrained personality with subtle sassafras, resinous herbs, mint, licorice and sweet kirsch aromas and flavors to go with a medium bodied, lightly textured, and yet classy palate feel. It's not a heavyweight, yet offers solid complexity and an interesting, lively profile. It should be enjoyed over the coming 4-6 years. Drink 2014-2020.

Beautifully complex, Jensen's 2011 Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard offers a lively, fresh feel in its sweet cherry, strawberry, sappy spring flowers and subtle mint-driven bouquet. Medium-bodied, layered and seamless, it's an elegant and silky example of this cuvee to drink over the coming decade or more. Drink 2014-2024.

The 2011 Pinot Noir Mills comes all from the limestone soils of the Mills Vineyard. Seeing 100% whole cluster inclusion during fermentation, and then aged 18 months in 30% new French oak, it's a medium-bodied, elegant effort that has notions of Asian spices, dried flowers, sappy underbrush and ripe cherries all emerging from the glass. Showing more rose petal and minerality with time in the glass, it has nicely integrated acidity and a seamless, pure profile that's ideal for drinking over the coming 5-7 years or more. Drink 2014-2021.