

The Wine Advocate Tasting Notes

DECEMBER 2011

	Year	Wine Name	Rating
~	2010	Calera Chardonnay Central Coast	88
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The 2010 Chardonnay Central Coast is sourced from a variety of vineyard sites across central California. There is nothing fancy here, just a glorious glass of Chardonnay bursting with varietal expression and plenty of style. Gentle notes of spiciness from the French oak (10% new) linger on the finish. This is without question one of the very finest values in California Chardonnay. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2015.



The 2010 Viognier is another fabulous entry-level wine from Calera. It reveals plenty of varietal nuance to match its textured, totally inviting personality. Total harmony and elegance are the main virtues of this absolutely delicious Viognier. Calera ages the Viognier in neutral French oak barrels. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2015.

2010 Calera Aligoté Mt Harlan 88

The 2010 Aligote is a fabulous wine for the money. Crisp green apples and white peaches are some of the nuances that emerge from this vibrant, intriguing wine. The Aligote boasts fabulous textural elegance and sheer finesse. Proprietor Josh Jensen crafts his Aligote from estate grown fruit. The wine is aged in French oak barrels and sees full malolactic fermentation. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014.

2010 Calera Chardonnay Mt Harlan 93+

The 2010 Chardonnay Mt. Harlan shows the pedigree these hillside sites planted in 1984 and 1998 are capable of. This is a beautifully balanced, harmonious wine that captures the exuberant side of Chardonnay in its expressive tropical fruit, buttery notes and spices, while never losing its essential minerality, focus and drive. The 2010 shows fabulous freshness all the way through to the finish. I loved it. This is yet another great showing from Calera. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

The 2010 Viognier Mt. Harlan, from estate-grown fruit, takes things to another level. Mint, white flowers, pears and peaches are some of the notes that emerge from this transparent, weightless wine. There is plenty of richness but no heaviness whatsoever in the glass. A beautifully chiseled finish rounds things out nicely. The Viognier Mt. Harlan was whole-cluster pressed and aged in French oak barrels with no rackings until it was prepared for bottling. This is a fabulous showing from Calera. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

These five 2010 whites from Calera are superb. The entry-level bottlings offer tremendous value, while the higher-end selections are every bit as compelling in their respective categories. These fabulous, unique wines are well worth seeking out. — Antonio Galloni