

Calera, Mt. Harlan (Central Coast, California) Pinot Noir de Villiers 2012

Calera, one of the most respected wine producers in California, has been turning out very fine and supremely drinkable wines for a long time, and this Pinot Noir is definitely a case in point. The ensemble of characteristics that suggest toasted brioche, blackberries, freshly ground pepper and pine forest is irresistible, and the gossamer texture and depth of flavor likewise bring knee-buckling pleasure. I'm also seizing this opportunity for a shout-out about the information printed on the label. Giving us facts about the vineyard's elevation, precise location, type of soil and such helps us gain a better understanding of what makes the wine what it is. This isn't idle wine geek speak -- it is information that can help us all become better-educated, and therefore more appreciative, wine consumers. – *Marguerite Thomas*

92 points

