



CALERA

CALERA WINE COMPANY

CALERA WINE COMPANY WAS HONORED TO HAVE MR. ROBERT PARKER, JR., PUBLISHER OF THE WINE ADVOCATE, SAMPLE A VERTICAL TASTING OF 64 OF OUR PINOT NOIRS. AN EXCERPT FROM HIS REVIEW FOLLOWS.

NOVEMBER
2003

PAGE 1

CALIFORNIA'S ROMANÉE-CONTI A REMARKABLE TASTING: CALERA PINOT NOIR VERTICALS *Wine Advocate - Spring 2003*

ROBERT PARKER, JR.

I had the privilege, and for the most part, enormous pleasure, of tasting through many of the single-vineyard Calera Pinot Noirs. There are four vineyards: the Selleck, Reed, Jensen (all planted in 1975), and Mills (planted in 1984). This huge vertical established several points. Most of the vintages of the eighties were, and remain, spectacular. They are tributes to the extraordinary potential of these vineyards to produce world-class Pinot Noir.

As in Burgundy, producing Pinot Noir is often a challenge, and sometimes the wines miss badly. Nevertheless, enough great wines emerged from this vertical tasting to convince anybody that Calera is one of the most compelling Pinot Noir specialists of not only the New World, but of Planet Earth.



"CALERA"
IS
SPANISH
FOR
"LIMEKILN"

Limestone had been commercially quarried from the Calera property 100 years earlier as evidenced by the existence of the beautifully preserved 30 foot tall masonry calera, the symbol & logo of Calera Wine Company.



"...CALERA IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING PINOT NOIR SPECIALISTS OF NOT ONLY THE NEW WORLD, BUT OF PLANET EARTH."

Credit must be extended to its visionary founder, proprietor Josh Jensen. Ironically, today Jensen rarely gets the acclaim that these wines merit. Hopefully the result of this tasting will encourage wine lovers to revisit Calera's wines.

"Credit must be extended to its visionary founder, proprietor Josh Jensen."

All of the Calera Pinot Noir vineyards are planted on Mount Harlan in the Gavilan Mountains appellation. The wines are generally made with whole clusters, meaning there is no destemming.

The wines are punched down multiple times daily, indigenous yeast vineyards kick off the fermentations and the wines spend 16 months in François Frères coopered barrels, of which approximately 30% are new. There is no racking or filtration, but an egg white fining is done prior to bottling.

The vineyards are planted on pure limestone at 2000 feet or higher, making Calera one of the few California vineyards to have soils similar to Burgundy's Côte d'Or.

"They are tributes to the extraordinary potential of these vineyards to produce world-class Pinot Noir."

"This outrageous Pinot Noir can compete with the finest made on earth!"

ROBERT PARKER
NOVEMBER 2003
REVIEW

page 2



CALERA PINOT NOIR JENSEN VINEYARD

*Exposures in all four directions ~ 13.8 acres
726 vines per acre ~ Planted in 1975
Grafted on St. George root stock.*

2000 93+ ...deep ruby/purple color...complex, sweet forest floor aromas intermingled with smoky, gamey, cherry and strawberry jam scents. Long, complex and potentially superb...It's a beauty...

Release Date - April 2004

"...one of the greatest New World Pinots..."

1999 95 ...spectacular, young Pinot Noir (one of the greatest New World Pinots I have tasted)... boasts a deep ruby/purple color as well as a phenomenal bouquet of black raspberry, cherry, currant, white flower... full-bodied...explosive on the palate...**An extraordinary expression of Pinot Noir**...penetrating, staggeringly concentrated...elegant and gracious...**Wow!**

*"An extraordinary expression
of Pinot Noir... Wow!"*



1998 88 ...dark plum/ruby... medium-bodied, mid-palate...spicy, heady finish. *Limited Availability*

1997 88 Minty-styled, dark ruby colored...Japanese green tea and spearmint...lean, medium-bodied... *Limited Availability*

1996 90 Surprising aromas of chocolate intermixed with scents of tomato skin, roasted meat and red fruit jump from the glass... deep, medium to full-bodied,

distinctive, unique...an outstanding effort.

Limited Availability

"The Jensen Pinot Noirs performed at a grand cru level in this vertical tasting."



JENSEN VINEYARD, MT. HARLAN

1990 90 ...deep, concentrated, virile, powerful...

Not Available

*"One of the most profound Pinot Noirs
I have ever tasted...anywhere..."*

1988 96 One of the most profound Pinot Noirs I have ever tasted...anywhere...extraordinary 14-year old wine... extremely youthful...majestic display of aromas and flavors. Boasting prodigious concentration...stunning smorgasbord of aromas (Japanese soy, candied red and black fruits, autumnal leaves, forest and caramels)...opulent and dense with spectacular concentration, medium to full-body... surprising lightness in the mouth. **This stunning effort proves that this vineyard can compete with France's most magical red Burgundies. Unbelievable wine!**

Not Available

"Unbelievable wine!"

*"THIS STUNNING EFFORT PROVES THAT THIS VINEYARD CAN
COMPETE WITH FRANCE'S MOST MAGICAL RED BURGUNDIES.
UNBELIEVABLE WINE!"*

*For additional information, please call or visit
our website at www.CaleraWine.com.*

CALERA PINOT NOIR SELLECK VINEYARD

South-facing - 4.8 acre vineyard - 726 vines per acre - Planted in 1975 - St. George rootstock.

"...profound Pinot Noirs have emerged from this vineyard."

1999 95 ...dense plum/purple color...a sensational, big, sweet perfume of candied red and black fruits, smoke, espresso, soy and Asian spices...possesses great stuffing, full body, tremendous intensity...a pure, concentrated, formidable finish. **This outrageous Pinot Noir can compete with the finest made on Planet Earth!**

"This outrageous Pinot Noir can compete with the finest made on Planet Earth!"

1998 86 ...dark ruby color is accompanied by herb-tinged berry fruit intermixed with notes of earth, spice, and background wood...offers attractive drinking....

1997 92 ...sweet aromas of mint tea intermixed with cherries, plums, beets and sassafras...expansive, powerful... *Not Available*

1996 90 ...deep ruby/purple-colored...aromas of cola, black fruits...a touch of herbaceousness...Deep, rich and impressively endowed... *Not Available*

1988 92 Deep ruby/purple-colored...magnificently stood the test of time...full-bodied...notes of earth, fresh mushrooms, black cherries and cola...**Rich, dense and powerful...stunning...** *Not Available*

CALERA PINOT NOIR REED VINEYARD

Cold North/Northeast exposure - 4.4 acres - 726 vines per acre - Planted in 1975 - Grafted root stocks of St. George.

2000 89+ ...the light ruby-colored...spicy (spearmint, dried herbs, allspice, cloves)...revealing a **Domaine de la Romanée-Conti-like earthiness in its flavors**...could easily merit an outstanding score for its complexity alone.

Release Date - April 2004

"...revealing a Domaine de la Romanée-Conti-like earthiness in its flavors..."

1999 90 ...deep plum/ruby color...aromas and flavors of forest floor...ferns and sassafras. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, spicy and earthy...

1988 90 **My favorite Reed Vineyard Pinot Noir...** full ripeness...boasts a deep plum/ruby color along with a sweet perfume of red and black fruits...medium-bodied, ripe, layered, attractive... *Not Available*

CALERA PINOT NOIR MILLS VINEYARD

South-facing - 14.4 acres - Planted in 1984 - Burgundy cuttings brought to California by proprietor Josh Jensen.

1999 92 **One of the strongest efforts in this vertical...**dark ruby color, gorgeous perfume of currants, plums, figs...sweet, full-bodied...a long impressive finish...

1998 87 Dark plum ruby-colored with amber creeping in at the edge...herbal aromas...earthy personality.

1997 90 ...outstanding...exhibits a dark garnet color...aromas of smoke, plums, cherries...a delicate but forceful style...expansive and sweet on the palate...excellent purity... *Limited Availability*

1996 90+ One of the deepest colored wines of this vertical...abundant aromas of black cherries, earth...tremendous depth as well as tannin, body, and muscle... **one of the beefiest and richest.**

1993 91 Dark garnet with amber hues...aromas of plums, figs, currants, cherries...complex, aromatic...supple texture...round, dense personality, tremendous lushness, medium to full body...long, concentrated finish...**one of my favorite older vintages...**

1989 92 Still young and vibrant...black cherry and earth characteristics...medium-bodied, spicy, impressively endowed effort. **I hesitate to say it but most 1989 red Burgundies I have tasted do not possess the vibrancy and youthfulness exhibited by this California Pinot Noir...outstanding...** *Not Available*



"I hesitate to say it but most 1989 red Burgundies I have tasted do not possess the vibrancy and youthfulness exhibited by this California Pinot Noir..."

1988 94 My favorite Mills Vineyard offering to date...an amazing *tour de force* in Pinot Noir wine-making...deep plum/purple...spectacular aromatic profile of black fruits...Dense, full-bodied, opulently-textured... **A brilliant wine still in its adolescence. Wow!** *Not Available*

FOR THE FULL REVIEW OF THE CALERA PINOT NOIR
TASTING BY ROBERT PARKER PARKER, JR.,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.CALERAWINE.COM



About
CALERA
CALERA WINE COMPANY

In 1975, Josh Jensen made his first wine in a rented winery space; 1000 cases of Calera Zinfandel were produced from purchased grapes. Two years later, Jensen chose his 100-acre site south of Hollister, California, where a 1950's multi-level, rock crushing facility had once been built into the steep hillside.

Abandoned before it was ever used for crushing rock, the walls & terraces would become the heart of Calera's true gravity-flow winery some 20 years later. Thus began a 25-year-and-counting construction project.



Calera's one-of-a-kind, multi-level (seven tier), gravity-flow winery allows the wine to be moved in the most gentle way by the natural force of gravity. This, along with Calera's other non-interventionist techniques—such as native yeasts, whole cluster fermentations & minimal racking—insures that the bottled wines express all the natural greatness of their Mt. Harlan vineyard origins.



Jensen's winery is now state-of-the-art with barrel cellars built into the hillside, an ultra-modern German grape press & an Italian bottling line. Newest improvements include an underground wine library, laboratory, administration offices & additional warehouse space.

Over the last 25 years, Jensen & his dedicated staff have watched the company grow to a total of 83.6 planted acres in the Mt. Harlan AVA & a 30,000 square foot winery with distribution in 47 states & 20 foreign countries. ☞



"To make great wine, it is essential to employ the most gentle of methods in the winemaking process & to handle the wine with the utmost care & attention."

—JOSH JENSEN, *Proprietor*

PAST CALERA WHITE WINE REVIEWS BY ROBERT PARKER, JR.

**1997 CHARDONNAY
MT. HARLAN**

90 POINTS

"The light gold-colored, rich 1997 Chardonnay Mt. Harlan boasts notes of butter, minerals and honeysuckle presented in a full-bodied, concentrated, impressive style."

Wine Advocate ~ June 29, 2002



**2002 VIOGNIER
MT. HARLAN**

92 POINTS

"...this light green/gold-colored Viognier offers a provocative perfume of crushed stones intermixed with lychee nuts, apricots and white flowers. Ripe and full-bodied with a huge finish as well as a singular character, this 2002 is one of the finest Viogniers made in California. Bravo!"

Wine Advocate ~ August 23, 2003

"...this 2002 is one of the finest Viogniers made in California. Bravo!"