



Closing Date: 8-29-15
Issue 220

Robert Parker's
Wine Advocate

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

CALERA WINE COMPANY	2013	ALIGOTÉ	MT. HARLAN	WHITE	87
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2013	CHARDONNAY	CENTRAL COAST	WHITE	90
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2013	CHARDONNAY MT HARLAN	MT. HARLAN	WHITE	95
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2013	VIIGNIER	CENTRAL COAST	WHITE	89
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2013	PINOT NOIR	CENTRAL COAST	RED	91
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2012	PINOT NOIR DE VILLIERS VINEYARD	MT. HARLAN	RED	95
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2012	PINOT NOIR JENSEN VINEYARD	MT. HARLAN	RED	96
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2012	PINOT NOIR MILLS VINEYARD	MT. HARLAN	RED	96
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2012	PINOT NOIR REED VINEYARD	MT. HARLAN	RED	91
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2012	PINOT NOIR RYAN VINEYARD	MT. HARLAN	RED	94
CALERA WINE COMPANY	2012	PINOT NOIR SELLECK VINEYARD	MT. HARLAN	RED	98

These latest 2012s from Josh Jensen were superb across the board and at the top-end were some of the most impressive Pinot Noirs I was able to taste for this report.

From vines that were grafted over to Aligote in 2004 and 2007, the **2013 Aligoté** sports a medium gold color to go with Chardonnay-like stone fruits, apple blossom and butter nuts. Medium-bodied, supple, lightly textured and elegant, it's a little bit fleeting on the palate, but is certainly delicious and easy drinking. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2017.

The **2013 Chardonnay** is a beauty that represents a smokin' value in Chardonnay. Clean, crisp and classic, with good richness in its white flowers, buttered apple, lemon curd and brioche aromas and flavors, this terrific white is medium-bodied and elegant, with excellent purity and precision on the palate. Buy it by the case and drink bottles over the coming 2-4 years. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2018.

A brilliant Chardonnay, Calera's **2013 Chardonnay Mt Harlan**, which was harvested September 18 to October 1, comes from miniscule yields of 1.16 tons per acre and spent 10 months in 30% new French oak. It has a White Burgundy-like minerality to go with terrific white currants, white peach, buttered citrus, brioche and hints of almond. Medium-bodied, vibrant and fresh, it has building richness, yet stays light, crisp and clean, with a terrific finish. This is a serious Chardonnay to drink over the coming 4-5 years. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2020.

A beautiful expression of the variety from California, the **2013 Viognier** comes from the Gimelli Vineyard located in San Benito County. It saw full malolactic fermentation and was aged in neutral oak. Pretty, perfumed and clean, with notes of honeyed peach, orange blossom and white flowers, this medium-bodied, rounded, supple Viognier stays lively and fresh on the palate while still showing the texture and richness that the variety's known for. Drink it anytime over the coming 1-2 years. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2017.

Coming from a number of vineyards spread throughout the Central Coast (30% from Laetitia Vineyard, which is the largest component), the **2013 Pinot Noir Central Coast** spent 11 months in 10% new French oak prior to bottling. It has a light ruby color to go with perfumed, spice-filled notes of red flowers, sweet cherries, rose petal and saffras. Beautiful on the palate, with a light, airy feel, plenty of acidity and a great finish, this should represent a super value and drink well for 4-5 years. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2020.

I loved the **2012 Pinot Noir de Villiers**. It's a beautifully complete, balanced and satisfying Pinot Noir that does everything right. Giving up tons of sweet black raspberry and strawberry fruits, spice-box, dried flowers and potpourri characteristics, it's medium to full-bodied, layered and seamless, with a ripe, supple texture that keeps you coming back to the glass. While there's more than enough fruit to keep this enjoyable now, there's some solid tannin and depth in there as well, so it will age. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

A thrilling Pinot Noir that comes from a 13.8-acre vineyard planted in 1975 on mostly on limestone, at an elevation of 2,200 feet, the **2012 Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard** was harvested September 24 to October 21 and was aged 16 months in 30% new French oak. It offers a dark ruby color to go with a big, sweet nose of cranberry, wild strawberries, crushed flowers, forest floor and spice. Full-bodied, layered and elegant, with a supple, rounded and sexy texture, it packs plenty of fruit, yet is graceful, beautifully balanced and seamless. It's hard to resist now, yet should cruise for a decade in the cellar. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

The **2012 Pinot Noir Mills Vineyard** comes from 26-year-old own-rooted vines and was harvest September 20 to October 17. Aged 18 months in 30% new French oak, its semi-opaque ruby color is followed by sensational notes of ripe currants and darker fruits, scorched earth, smoked meats, licorice and chalky minerality. Big, rich, full-bodied and layered, with a huge core of fruit that never seems over the top or heavy, this elegant, profound Pinot Noir can be enjoyed anytime over the coming decade or more. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

From a cooler site, the **2012 Pinot Noir Reed Vineyard** lacks the weight and depth of some of the other releases, yet has beautifully perfumed and complex notes of saffras, kirsch, sweet black cherry, pepper and pine resin on the nose. These give way to a medium to full-bodied, seamless, elegant Pinot Noir that has no hard edges, sweet fruit and a forward, yet still focused and balanced profile on the palate. Aged 16 months in roughly 30% new French oak and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered, it should evolve gracefully through 2022. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2022.

From one of the cooler terroirs on the estate, the **2012 Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard** offers full-bodied richness and depth to go with ample sweet black cherries, cassis, saffras, crushed flowers and toasted spice. A decidedly hedonistic, full throated example of this cuvee, this superb Pinot Noir firms up nicely on the finish and has a full, layered mid-palate. Drink it now, or cellar it for a decade. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

Deeper and richer than the Jensen, the blockbuster-style **2012 Pinot Noir Selleck Vineyard** comes from vines planted in 1975 and wasn't harvested until October 4. A big, rich, layered Pinot Noir that offers tight, reserved notes of blackcurrants, truffle, crushed rocks, forest floor and saffras, this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, beautiful acidity and building, fine tannin that come through on the awesome finish. With air, it turns more and more mineral-laced and earthy, showing even a touch of gaminess. This beauty has terrific depth and richness without ever being over the top. Still a baby, give it a few years in the cellar, and enjoy bottles over the following decade. Bravo to Josh Jensen for this smokin' effort! Anticipated maturity: 2017-2027. Tel. (831) 637-9170