



Closing Date: 12-27-12
Issue 204

Robert Parker's
Wine Advocate

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

CALERA	2011	ALIGOTE	CENTRAL COAST	(\$28.00)	WHITE	88
CALERA	2011	CHARDONNAY	CENTRAL COAST	(\$23.00)	WHITE	90
CALERA	2011	CHARDONNAY	MT. HARLAN	(\$40.00)	WHITE	93+
CALERA	2011	VIOGNIER	CENTRAL COAST	(\$22.00)	WHITE	90
CALERA	2011	VIOGNIER	MT. HARLAN	(\$40.00)	WHITE	92
CALERA	2011	PINOT NOIR	CENTRAL COAST	(\$26.00)	RED	90

Calera is clearly not in Napa Valley, but these current and upcoming releases are deserving of serious attention, hence their inclusion here. The **2011 Aligoté** offers up dried pears, hazelnuts and sweet spices. A broad-shouldered white, the 2011 impresses for its balance and overall harmony. The aromas and flavors are a little more complex than is typical for this grape, with less of the citrus like-brightness. Regardless, it is a gorgeous wine. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. Calera's **2011 Chardonnay Central Coast** is super-impressive, especially for the money. A textured, inviting wine, the 2011 boasts gorgeous depth and tons of finesse. Deeply expressive varietal notes wrap around the creamy finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2011 Chardonnay Mt. Harlan** bursts from the glass with expressive apricots, peaches, crushed rocks, French oak and spices. Rich yet weightless, the 2011 is striking from the very first taste. Once again, Calera's Mt. Harlan Chardonnay is world-class. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

The **2011 Viognier** (Central Coast) jumps from the glass with exotic white

flowers, spices, gingerbread, lychee and mango. There is no shortage of varietal character in this bright, crystalline white. Clean, vibrant layers of minerality give the wine its inner tension and weightless, crystalline finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2011 Viognier Mt. Harlan** covers every inch of the palate with layers of rich, sensual fruit. The Mt. Harlan Viognier is less overt in its aromas and flavors than the Central Coast Viognier. It is a wine that impresses most for its sublime texture and vibrant, focused fruit. Hints of citrus, white flowers and crushed rocks are woven into the generous, inviting finish. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2017.

Calera's **2011 Pinot Noir Central Coast** wafts from the glass with freshly cut flowers, sweet red berries and mint. This is a fairly laid-back vintage for the wine, with less of the pure breed of the 2009 and 2010, but frankly that may be an unfair comparison as those wines were superb over achievers. The 2011 is more an inline performer. The tense, saline finish laced with pretty floral and spiced notes is lovely. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2018.. Tel. (831)637-9170; www.calerawine.com