

The Wine Advocate Tasting Notes

AUGUST 31, 2011

	Year	Wine Name	Rating
P	2010	Calera Vin Gris Pinot Noir Central Coast	90

The 2010 Vin Gris of Pinot Noir, a saignée of Pinot Noir, is a gorgeous, striking wine loaded with class and personality. Varietal fruit comes through loud and clear in this beautiful, broad shouldered rosé. The wine was aged in stainless steel and did not undergo malolactic fermentation. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2013.

The 2009 Pinot Noir bursts from the glass with expressive red fruit, flowers, spices and mint. It shows lovely mid-palate juiciness and an elegant, polished finish. At \$24 a bottle, it may very well be the single finest value in American Pinot Noir. I was hardly surprised to learn Emirates chose to serve this wine in their business class cabin last year. This is a dazzling wine from start to finish. It is also one of the two 2008 Pinots made from fully destemmed fruit. Wow! Anticipated maturity: 2011-2016.

2008 Calera Pinot Noir de Villiers Vineyard 93

The 2008 Pinot Noir de Villiers Vineyard flows from the glass with layers of dark cherries, menthol, licorice and tobacco. It is a wonderfully fleshy, expressive Pinot to drink now and over the next decade. Despite the richness of the fruit, there is more than enough structure for this to drink well for quite some time. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020.

The 2008 Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard comes across as soft, delicate and perfumed. Sweet red berries, crushed flowers, licorice and tobacco are the some of the notes that flow from this understated Pinot. The Ryan Vineyard is already a touch forward, suggesting it is best enjoyed sooner rather than later. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2018.

2008 Calera Pinot Noir Mills Vineyard

The 2008 Pinot Noir Mills Vineyard takes shape beautifully in the glass, with layers of bright red fruits, flowers, spices and tobacco. It is an impeccable, polished wine from start to finish. This is one of the wines that shows more stem character than some of the others. A textured, multi-dimensional finish of considerable elegance sets the Mills Vineyard apart. Here too, there is a slightly fleeting quality, but there seems to be enough fruit for the wine to drink well for another handful of years, perhaps longer. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020.

The 2008 Pinot Noir Reed Vineyard is a plush, deep wine endowed with gorgeous textural richness and depth. Sweet herbs, licorice and mint develop in the glass, adding further complexity and nuance. The Reed Vineyard is another superb, beautifully balanced, harmonious wine. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2023.

≥ 2008 Calera Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard 94+

The 2008 Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard bursts onto the palate with a rush of intensely perfumed fruit. It shows fabulous balance of fruits, structure and acidity as it covers the palate with dazzling purity and breathtaking sense of balance. A soft, caressing finish rounds things out in style. This is a superrefined showing from Josh Jensen. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2023.

SWEET 2010 Viognier Doux Central Coast 92

The 2010 Viognier Doux is an attractive dessert wine laced with juicy peaches, apricots, flowers and mint. Bright floral notes linger on the soft, feminine finish. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014.

I was deeply impressed with the wines I tasted from Josh Jensen and Calera. Vintage 2008 was not an easy one, as a severe spring frost reduced yields to less than one ton per acre... Calera has what are easily the most informative back labels I have ever seen, with much more information and detail on each wine than I can reproduce here. Kudos to Josh Jensen for providing his customers with the maximum level of detail one could ever ask for. — Antonio Galloni