

Producer: Calera, Article: USA, California: Central Coast's 2022s

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<u>Vin.</u>	<u>Wine</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Collapse All</u>
2021	<u>Calera Pinot Noir Selleck Vineyard</u> I loved the 2021 Pinot Noir Selleck Vineyard, a perfumed, medium-bodied, absolutely seamless Pinot Noir that's all about grace and elegance. Revealing a medium ruby hue (it's one of the lighter-hued releases here), its perfumed nose of framboise, spring flowers, rose petals, leather, and classic Pinot Noir spicy nuances all give this a Volnay-like style. Beautifully balanced and elegant, with nicely integrated acidity and fine, polished tannins, it's already accessible yet has two decades of prime drinking ahead of it. The Selleck Vineyard spent 19 months in 30% new barrels, and it's a tiny 600-case release.	97	\$125	
2021	<u>Calera Pinot Noir de Villiers Vineyard</u> The 2021 Pinot Noir de Villiers Vineyard is one of the bigger, richer, darker-fruited wines in the lineup, and it's built for the cellar. Currants, blackberries, spicy oak, and roasted herb notes all define this beauty, and it has a Grand Cru Burgundy-like richness and depth. With extended air (I followed this bottle for multiple days), it shows a classic, balanced, medium to full-bodied style and has ripe, integrated tannins and acidity, as well as a gorgeous finish. I'd be thrilled with bottles in the cellar. It deserves at least 4-6 years of bottle age, and it's going to see its 20th birthday, if not 30th, in fine form.	96	\$95	

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2021	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard</u> Like the Selleck Vineyard, the 2021 Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard was aged in 30% new French oak (18 months), with the balance in neutral barrels. It's a slightly bigger wine than the Selleck and has a beautiful array of red and black fruits as well as some underbrush, chalk, sappy flowers, and some meaty, gamey nuances. These carry to a medium to full-bodied Pinot Noir with terrific overall balance, a focused, elegant mouthfeel, plenty of concentration and density, and a great finish. It's another wine that deserves 3-5 years of bottle age and is going to age brilliantly.</p>	96	\$125
2021	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Mills Vineyard</u> The 2021 Pinot Noir Mills Vineyard is another graceful, complex, layered wine in the lineup. Aged 18 months in 30% new barrels, its medium ruby hue is followed by an exotic nose of both red and black fruits as well as some herbal, forest floor, iron, spice, and rose petal nuances. I love its overall complexity, and it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, a pure, layered, elegant mouthfeel, rock-solid richness and mid-palate depth, and soft tannins. As with all these releases from Calera, I was able to follow this bottle for multiple days, and it held up nicely with air. It's clearly approachable today, yet I think it will be at its best in 2-3 years and have at least a solid decade of prime drinking thereafter.</p>	95	\$95

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2021	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Reed Vineyard</u> The 2021 Pinot Noir Reed Vineyard comes from a site planted in 1975 and is named after Bill G. Reed, one of the original partners and investors at Calera. Brought up in 30% new barrels, it has a semi-opaque ruby hue as well as a ripe nose of mulberries, red cherries, leafy herbs/crushed mint, and sappy, rose-like nuances. These all carry over to the palate, where the wine is medium-bodied, has a focused, elegant mouthfeel, nicely balanced acidity and tannins, and a great, chalky, mineral-laced finish. It needs 2-3 years of bottle age but should have a solid two decades of overall longevity.</p>	94	\$95
2021	<p><u>Calera Chardonnay Eden Rift Vineyard</u> The 2021 Chardonnay Eden Rift Vineyard comes from a single vineyard in the Cienega Valley AVA, which is in San Benito County. Brought up in 30% new oak, it has a medium gold hue as well as a subtly reductive, Burgundian nose of ripe citrus, flint, honeyed orange, and spicy, toasty nuances. I love its overall balance, and it's medium-bodied, with bright yet integrated acidity and a great finish. This complex, impressive Chardonnay will evolve nicely over the coming decade.</p>	93	\$40
2021	<p><u>Calera Chardonnay Mt. Harlan</u> The 2021 Chardonnay Mt. Harlan is rock solid, with a lively, mineral-laced style that still brings impressive concentration. Exotic stone fruits, orange blossom, crushed stone, and almond paste are just some of the nuances in this beauty, and it opens up nicely with time in the glass, showing medium-bodied richness, nicely integrated oak and acidity, and a great finish. It's impressive now, especially with some air, and I wouldn't be surprised to see this continue drinking well through 2033 or beyond.</p>	93	\$60

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2021	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Muns Vineyard</u> One of the lighter-hued Pinot Noirs in the lineup, the 2021 Pinot Noir Muns Vineyard, came from a vineyard located in the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA and was brought up in 30% new French oak. Fresh strawberries, sappy flowers, rose petals, and spicy nuances all define the aromatics, and it hits the palate with a focused, precise mouthfeel that has good acidity, fine-grained tannins, and a great, mineral-laced style. It's a different beast compared to the Mt. Harlan cuvées with its more medium-bodied, taut, focused, and stony style. I like it today, particularly with a decant, yet it will have at least a decade of longevity, and my money is on even more.</p>	92	\$54
2021	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard</u> The 2021 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard comes from one of the Grand Cru sites in the Sta. Rita Hills, and while the élevage wasn't listed, I believe it was aged similarly to the other releases here, being brought up in 30% new oak. Mulled cherries, raspberries, spice, and some floral notes all emerge on the nose, and it's medium-bodied on the palate, with a ripe, layered, supple mouthfeel, soft tannins, and outstanding length. It's drinking nicely today, yet I see no reason it shouldn't keep well through 2031.</p>	92	\$54
2021	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Chalone Vineyard</u> Coming from a site in Monterey County, the 2021 Pinot Noir Chalone Vineyard was raised mostly in neutral barrels, with 30% being new. It has a spicy, rose petal, and foresty style, impressive darker red fruits, medium body, a pure, elegant mouthfeel, and nicely integrated acidity and tannins. It doesn't have the complexity of the top releases here, but I love its vibrancy and purity. It will keep nicely through 2033.</p>	91	\$54

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2021	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard</u> One of the bigger, richer wines in the lineup, the 2021 Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard comes from a higher elevation site and vines planted in the late 1990s. Ripe red plums, licorice, roasted herbs, and chalky minerality all define the aromatics, and it hits the palate with a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, slightly more rustic style. I like its mid-palate, yet the tannins are firmer and chewy, and just the overall balance here is a step back from the other releases in 2021. Nevertheless, it's still a terrific Pinot Noir that has an old school Burgundy-like rusticity. Give it 2-3 years and enjoy over the following decade.</p>	91	\$95
2022	<p><u>Calera Chardonnay Central Coast</u> Starting with the 2022 Chardonnay Central Coast, this comes from a mix of sites and spent 10 months in 10% new oak. Its vivid gold hue is followed by a solid nose of stone and apple-like fruits, as well as some background spicy, brioche-like nuances. This medium-bodied, concentrated, textured Chardonnay is clean, balanced, and impeccably made.</p>	90	\$28
2022	<p><u>Calera Pinot Noir Central Coast</u> Brought up in 10% new barrels and a larger production release for this estate, the 2022 Pinot Noir Central Coast is ruby-hued and offers a solid nose of ripe framboise, saffron, and minty, floral-like nuances. It's medium-bodied, round, supple, and undeniably delicious. Drink bottles through 2027. It's a heck of a value.</p>	90	\$32