



Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

By Josh Raynolds, Issue 153, Nov/Dec 2010

2008 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay, Edna Valley – 90 points

(\$22) Bright yellow-gold. Alluring aromas of orange, candied lime, basil and talc, with a hint of honey. Pliant and juicy, offering sweet citrus flavors and a late jolt of white pepper. Has heft but this wine is surprisingly lithe for its weight, with strong finishing cut and very good clarity.

2008 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley – 91 points

(\$26) Bright gold. At once richer and livelier than the Edna Valley bottling, displaying scents of pear, orange oil, buttered apple and smoky minerals. Sappy orchard and citrus fruit flavors provide very good palate coverage and are lifted by tangy acidity. The orange note comes back strongly on the finish, which leaves a dusty, stony quality behind.

2008 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard, Edna Valley – 92 points

(\$32) Vivid gold. Precise, scented nose offers apple blossom and dusty minerals, along with a deeper nectarine aspect. At once tactile and fine-grained, with lively acidity giving definition to the sappy flavors of lemon curd, pit fruits, honeysuckle and ginger. Tightens up toward the back, finishing quite suave, with lovely lift to its floral and candied ginger flavors.

2008 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley – 92 points

(\$42) Greenish gold. Sexy, aromatic nose offers orange, fresh pineapple, white flowers, smoke and spices. Dense and round but energetic, with ripe acids supporting the sweet citrus and tropical fruit, spice and floral flavors. In a distinctly gentle, ripe style for Talley and likely to give early pleasure. Brian Talley said that "this is the one for fans of rich, older school California chardonnay.

2008 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley – 93 points

(\$46) Bright, green-tinged yellow. An intensely perfumed bouquet displays scents of lime zest, pear and anise, with suave floral and mineral qualities that gain strength with aeration. Rich and fleshy but dry, with a steely core of minerality supporting its deep citrus and orchard fruit flavors. Becomes spicier in the glass and finishes with excellent clarity, cut and juicy persistence. I've no doubt that this will be a slow ager.

2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir, Edna Valley – 90 points

(\$32) Deep red. Powerful, musky aromas of cherry and red berry skin, licorice and gingerbread. Bright and focused in the mouth, offering clear-cut red fruit flavors and notes of candied rose and smoky spices. Finishes with admirable clarity and very good, spicy persistence. No fat here.

2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir, Arroyo Grande Valley - 91 points

(\$36) Vivid red. High-pitched, expressive aromas of cherry, raspberry, red licorice, spicecake and flowers. Supple, silky and perfumed in the mouth, with a suave texture and complexity to the vibrant flavors of raspberry, strawberry and blood orange. Classic red fruit-driven pinot, finishing with silky tannins and noteworthy verve.



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2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard, Edna Valley - 92 points

(\$50) Bright red. Spicy red berries and cherry-cola on the nose, with complicating notes of dried rose and violet. Juicy, tightly coiled red fruit flavors open up with air and show a deeper black raspberry quality in the mid-palate. Rich as Talley wines go but there's plenty of vivacity here as well. The finish repeats the rose note and lingers with impressive spicy intensity.

2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 93 points

(\$58) Vivid red. Deep, pungent nose combines raspberry, blackberry, Asian spices, flowers and cola. Sappy, seamless and sweet, showing lively mineral character and sweet red fruit and floral pastille flavors. This focused, taut wine is quite elegant, finishing with alluring spiciness, a dusting of silky tannins and a distinctly floral element.

2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 94 points

(\$70) Deep, bright red. High-pitched, perfumed aromas of crushed raspberry, pungent minerality and candied rose petal. Silky, suave and refined, with superb clarity to its pure flavors of crushed red berries, rose pastille and blood orange. A strikingly sappy and insinuating wine, with a finely focused, pure finish. This wine's balance is very impressive.
