



# Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

8-31-11 Issue 196

Reviewed by Antonio Galloni

---

Brian Talley doesn't miss a beat. This is an impressive set of wines from top to bottom. In general, I have a slight preference for the 2008 Chardonnays over the 2009s, as I find the earlier vintage shows more delineation and finesse. Readers who prefer a bold, overt style of Chardonnay may find more immediate pleasure in the 2009s. The Chardonnays were fermented with indigenous yeasts and aged on their lees in 30% new oak. The 2008 Pinots are terrific, but they need quite a bit of air to show their best. The Pinots were fermented in open top fermenters, using native yeasts, and aged in barrel for 18-19 months. Talley used 30-35% new oak for the Pinots. Unfortunately I was not able to taste the 2009 Pinots, which had just been bottled.

## **2009 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Estate**

The **2009 Chardonnay Estate** comes across as quite delicate and feminine in this vintage. It shows good length if not quite the complexity of the best years and looks to be a relatively early drinker. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014. **88 points.**

## **2009 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard**

The **2009 Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard** possesses excellent depth and nuance in its fruit, although it comes across as a touch heavy with less overall complexity next to the 2008 tasted alongside it. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014. **89 points.**

## **2009 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard**

The 2009 Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard is a gorgeous wine graced with layers of expressive tropical fruit, sweet spices and vanilla. All of the elements flow with notable harmony, building nicely to the polished finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. **91 points.**

## **2009 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Estate Rosemary's Vineyard**

The 2009 Chardonnay Rosemary's Vineyard flows across the palate with layers of vivid fruit, mint and rosemary. It is a beautiful, precise wine that impresses for its considerable elegance, finesse and multi-dimensional finish. This is a terrific effort from Brian Talley. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019. **92 points.**

## **2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Estate**

The 2008 Pinot Noir Estate is a compelling wine laced with expressive dark red fruit, crushed flowers and licorice, all of which flow effortlessly from its mid-weight frame. Supple and elegant throughout, the Estate impresses for its fabulous sense of harmony. Pinot Noir is never inexpensive, but this is just about as good as it gets for the money. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018. **92 points.**

## **2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Stone Corral**

The 2008 Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard possesses captivating inner perfume and gorgeous depth. Here the fruit tends towards the darker end of the spectrum. Super-ripe black cherries, hard candy, cola, cloves and spices are some of the notes that emerge from this exuberant, marvelous Pinot. There is a level of polish and sheer elegance that is impossible to miss. Despite its richness, this shows fabulous balance. The wine needs several hours of air to show at its finest. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2021. **94 points.**

## **2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard**

The 2008 Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard is one of the more delicate, reserved wines in this line-up. Bright cherries, flowers, mint and minerals come together beautifully in this nuanced, classy offering. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022. **92 points.**

## **2008 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard**

The 2008 Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard captures all of the signature elements of the house style. A sweet bouquet redolent of freshly cut roses, flowers, raspberries and spices makes a strong first impression. This is a gorgeous, perfumed Pinot endowed with layers of subtle fruit and stunning overall balance. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2018. **94 points.**

---