



Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

August, 2013

Reviewed by Jeb Dunnuck

These knockout efforts are made by Brian Talley and were some of the most impressive Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs I tasted during my more than two week trip through the central coast. In addition to their estate offerings, their Bishop's Peak releases reviewed here come from purchased grapes throughout the central coast and offer good typicity and drinkability for not much buck.

2011 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay, Edna Valley—90 Points

Looking at the estate releases, the entry level 2011 Chardonnay Edna Valley is fantastic. Made in a leaner style, with less toast and richness than the single vineyards, it stays classy and pure, with white peach, white flowers and tinges of minerality, medium body and a great finish. It's a smoking value and well worth checking out. Drink now-2019.

2011 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley—89 Points

Lively and leaning towards the pretty, elegant end of the spectrum, the 2011 Chardonnay Estate Arroyo Grande has plenty of ripe apple, pear, baking bread and toast as well as juicy acidity and medium-bodied richness. Nicely textured, it's a solid effort to drink over the coming 3-4 years. Drink now-2017.

2011 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Monte Sereno Vineyards, Arroyo Grande Valley—89 Points

Showing more brioche and toast, with ripe peach, citrus and apple fruit, the 2011 Chardonnay Monte Sereno Vineyard (aged on lees for 15 months in half neutral and half one-year old barrels) is medium-bodied, juicy and lively on the palate. It lacks the depth of richness of some of the top single vineyards, yet has beautiful purity. Enjoy it over the coming 4-5 years or so. Drink now-2018.

2011 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard, Edna Valley—94 Points

Outstanding, with real class, the 2011 Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard spent 15 months in 20% new French oak. It offers up notions of apple pie, citrus blossom and assorted floral nuances to go with a medium-bodied, layered profile that gains in richness with air. Bright, fresh and clean acidity shines on the finish and it should have 4-5 years of prime drinking. Drink now-2018. **91 Points.**

2011 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley—94 Points

A brilliant Chardonnay, the 2011 Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard is perfumed, complex and layered, with mint, citrus blossom and edgy minerality all emerging from the glass. Medium-bodied and seamless, with a rich, full mid-palate, perfect balance and building richness, it stays elegant and shows nothing but class. Enjoy it over the coming decade. Drink now-2023.

2011 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley—95 Points

Even more impressive and getting a big "Wow!" in my notes, the mineral-tinged 2011 Chardonnay Rosemary's Vineyard dishes out thrilling aromas and flavors of citrus blossom, toasted bread, white flowers and hints of poached apples. Silky, elegant and finesse-driven, it builds on the palate and has awesome depth and richness. Count me as a fan. This beauty can be consumed

Continued...



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anytime over the coming decade. Drink now-2023.

2011 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir, Edna Valley—90 Points

Looking at the reds and offering classic Pinot Noir character, with earthy berry fruit, underbrush and assorted spices, the 2011 Pinot Noir Edna Valley has solid mid-palate depth, outstanding richness and good freshness. Drink it over the coming 3-5 years. Drink now-2018.

2011 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley—90 Points

The 2011 Pinot Noir Estate Arroyo Grande is a pretty, balanced wine that has beautiful fruit and solid complexity. Sweet red cherries, strawberry, dried spices and plenty of underbrush round out this medium-bodied, supple effort that should drink nicely for 5-6 years. Drink now-2019.

2011 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir East Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley—93 Points

Slightly more perfumed and vibrant, with a touch more sweet red and black fruit and more elegant and lighter weight aromas and flavors, the 2011 Pinot Noir East Rincon is more similar than dissimilar to the straight Rincon. It's a beautiful wine that will also have 12-15 years of evolution. Drink now-2026.

2011 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard, Edna Valley—93 Points

Impressive and coming all from clay loam soils, the 2011 Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard (aged 18 months in 30% new French oak) gives up mineral-tinged black cherry, earth, dried spices and leafy herb aromas and flavors. A great bottle of wine, it has medium-bodied richness, a brilliant texture and an overall elegant, finesse-driven profile. Enjoy it over the coming decade. Drink 2015-2023.

2011 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley—94 Points

Showing the darker, more masculine side to the variety, the 2011 Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard dishes out deep, mineral-laced aromas and flavors of black raspberry, licorice, vanilla and tinges of leather. Pure, rich and textured, with ripe tannin and a fantastic sense of tension and verve, it will have 12-15 years of ultimate longevity. Drink 2015-2026.

2011 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley—95 Points

The most complete and impressive in the lineup, the smoking good 2011 Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard, which spent 18 months on lees in 30% new French oak, offers up gorgeous raspberry, vanilla, underbrush, assorted wild flowers and edgy minerality to go with a medium-bodied, elegant and thrillingly textured and seamless palate. Deep, layered and savory, with perfect balance and a classic, age-worthy feel, it should be given a handful of years in the cellar and enjoyed over the following decade or more. Drink 2015-2026.