



Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

December, 2014

Reviewed by Jeb Dunnuck

I was blown away by this latest set of releases from winemaker Brian Talley. Across the board, the wines have fabulous typicity, purity and class, and are some of the greatest expressions of the varieties coming out of California today. I can't recommend them enough. Note, the Bishop's Peak release comes from purchased grapes from a variety of Central Coast vineyards.

2012 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay, Edna Valley - 90 Points

Aged 14 months, on lees, in 20% new French oak barrels, the 2012 Chardonnay Edna Valley is an outstanding effort that has medium-bodied depth and richness, beautiful elegance and purity, and perfumed notes of ripe orchard fruits, toast, spice and salty minerality. It's a classy effort to drink over the coming 2-4 years.

2012 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley - 90 Points

Another classy Chardonnay, Talley's 2012 Chardonnay Estate Arroyo Grande Valley (10 months in 15% new French oak) gives up notions of lychee, citrus blossom, spice and brioche, with additional minerality developing with time in the glass. Medium-bodied, pure, chiseled and focused, drink it over the coming 2-4 years.

2012 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard, Edna Valley - 92 Points

A brilliant Chardonnay that's a serious value, the 2012 Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard offers lots of white peach, toasted bread, sweet apple tart and a saline-like minerality that keeps you coming back to the glass. Fabulously pure, elegant and focused, with integrated acidity and no hard edges, drink this beauty over the coming 3-5 years.

2012 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 94 Points

Talley's 2012 Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard is stunning! Coming from the Arroyo Grande Valley and aged 14 months (on lees) in 20% new French oak, it exhibits a classic, complete and balanced style to go with notes of ripe apple and orchard fruits, lemon curd, salt block and wild herbs. Rich, medium-bodied with vibrant acidity, it's a rock-star white to drink over the coming 4-5 years, if not longer.

2012 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 95 Points

There's roughly 412 cases of the 2012 Chardonnay Estate Rosemary's Vineyard to go around, and it's up there with the crème de la crème of the vintage. Seeing 14 months (on lees) in 20% new French oak, it boasts spectacular notes of white peach, ripe apple, salty minerality and hints of toast on the nose. Medium-bodied, chiseled and crystalline in character, with stunning richness that stays tight and focused, this is one Chardonnay not to miss!

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2012 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir, Edna Valley - 91 Points

Leading off the reds, the 2012 Pinot Noir Edna Valley is a drop-dead gorgeous Pinot that has notes of currants, cherry blossom, spice, licorice and toast all emerging from the glass. Medium-bodied, layered, concentrated and textured, it stays seamless, elegant and focused from the start to the finish. Aged 14 months in 30% new French oak, it's an outstanding effort to drink over the coming 5-6 years, if not longer.

2012 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley - 92 Points

Also superb, as well as a serious value, the 2012 Pinot Noir Estate Arroyo Grande Valley is a medium-bodied, elegant and pure effort that yields notions of cherry pit, dried flowers, rose petal and damp earth. There's not much to go around, but it's refined, integrated and perfectly balanced, and will drink nicely through 2020. It spent 13 months in 20% new French oak prior to bottling.

2012 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir East Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 93 Points

Possessing more spice, toast, red cherries and forest floor-like aromas and flavors, the 2012 Pinot Noir East Rincon Vineyard (75 cases) is medium to full-bodied, layered and beautifully textured, with fabulous integration of its fruit, structure and alcohol. There's a suppleness and a sweetness of fruit here that makes it hard to resist today, but I love its overall balance and suspect it will evolve nicely for upward of a decade. It's another incredible effort from this estate, and they seem to be at the top of their game!

2012 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard, Edna Valley - 95 Points

Another rock-star Pinot Noir from this estate, the 2012 Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard, which is located in the Edna Valley, has thrilling purity and elegance in its black cherry, spring flowers, rose petal and damp underbrush-like aromas and flavors. Possessing medium-bodied depth and richness, integrated acidity and a seamless, silky, hard-to-resist profile, it can be enjoyed now or cellared for a decade.

2012 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 93 Points

More sweet and forward than its siblings, with bright raspberry, crushed berries, flowers and spice, the 2012 Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard is medium-bodied, supple and loaded with fruit. Aged 18 months in 30% new French oak, it's one of the more forward, sexy and fruit-loaded Pinot Noirs in the lineup. Drink this beauty over the coming 4-5 years, although I wouldn't be surprised to see it evolve nicely for longer.

2012 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 98 Points

Easily one of the top Pinot Noirs in the vintage (and I'd wager one of the top efforts to ever come out of California), Talley's 2012 Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard is world-class stuff that readers need to taste! Unfortunately, there's a scant 460 cases to go around, but don't miss a chance to grab some of these. Aged 18 months in 30% new French oak, it exhibits awesome notes of cassia, crushed flowers, rose bush, sappy herbs and exotic spice on the nose. This flows to a medium to full-bodied, rich, yet laser-focused palate that carries tremendous depth, ultra-fine tannin and blockbuster length. Given the balance and purity, it's already hard to resist, but I've no doubt it will evolve nicely for over a decade.