



August, 2015

Reviewed by Jeb Dunnuck

This is another terrific lineup of Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs from Brian Talley and winemaker Eric Johnson. Located in Edna Valley, they release a number of single-vineyard (also from the Arroyo Grande Valley) as well as solid value-priced appellation releases and their Bishop's Peak bottlings. Most are completely destemmed and aged in a modest amount of new oak.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay, Edna Valley - 90 Points

The entry-level Edna Valley release, the 2013 Chardonnay Edna Valley is a terrific value that readers need to snatch up. All barrel fermented and aged 14 months in roughly 15% new French oak, it offers lots of minerality in its stone fruits, dried herbs and spice-driven bouquet. Medium-bodied, bright, juicy and lively, drink this elegant and stylish Chardonnay over the coming 4-5 years.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley - 90 Points

Another medium-bodied, Burgundian-style effort is the 2013 Chardonnay Estate Arroyo Grande Valley. Seeing nine months in 15% new French oak, it has classic apple blossom, white peach and citrus aromas and flavors, medium-bodied richness and a vibrant, clean and classy style. Coming from a blend of Rincon, Rosemary and Monte Sereno Vineyards, it's a no-brainer purchase and will drink nicely for 4-5 years.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard, Edna Valley - 93 Points

The 2013 Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard is brilliant and one of the more racy, steel and lively whites in the lineup. Giving up lots of citrus blossom, salt block, mineral and a touch of white flowers, it's medium-bodied, balanced and elegant, with beautiful tension and vibrancy. Completely barrel fermented and aged in 20% new French oak, it's one serious, classy Chardonnay that represents a terrific value at this quality level.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 94 Points

Coming from loam and calcareous soils and aged on lees for 14 months in 20% new French oak, the 2013 Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard offers lots of saltiness and mineral characteristics to go with exotic green herbs, citrus and stone fruit-like aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, balanced, clean and classy, with both stunning freshness and notable length and depth of flavor, it's another terrific white from this team that will have a decade or more of longevity.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 96 Points

What I think is one of the top Chardonnay's coming from the Central Coast, the 2013 Chardonnay Estate Rosemary's Vineyard saw the same élevage as the other whites, with barrel fermenting and aging on lees for 14 months in 20% new French oak. It has drop-dead gorgeous notes of citrus rind, melon, crushed rock and hints of brioche that flow to a classic, straight, laser-focused style on the palate. While the Rincon Chardonnay has slightly more exotic qualities, this is textbook and classic Chardonnay all the way. Gorgeous.

Continued...



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2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard, Edna Valley - 92 Points

A step back from the Rincon and Rosemary releases, yet still a stunner, the 2013 Pinot Noir Stone Corral comes from sandy soils and exhibits pretty notes of rose petals, crushed rocks, candied watermelon and strawberries. Showing more and more minerality with time in the glass, it's medium-bodied and focused on the palate, with vibrant acidity, excellent purity and a clean finish. It lacks a touch of length compared to the other two single-vineyards, but I suspect will evolve similarly.

2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 94 Points

Aged 18 months in 22% new French oak, The 2013 Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard is medium-bodied, juicy and lively, with bright acidity giving plenty of lift to its spring flowers, forest floor, mint and sweet Pinot Noir fruit. Made in a pretty, crystalline and elegant style, it's a gorgeous 2013 that will have a decade of longevity.

2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 94 Points

At the same level as the Rincon Vineyard in 2013, the beautiful 2013 Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard saw a similar elevage and saw 18 months in 28% new French oak. A bigger, richer effort, it offers terrific black raspberry, raspberry, spice, rose petal and hints of minerality on the nose. Lacking a touch of the precision and focus of the Rincon effort, it makes up for it with medium to full-bodied richness, a rounded, supple, sexy texture and beautiful length. While I don't think it hits the heights of the '12, readers shouldn't miss either of these vintages and it will be great to try these two when they have some maturity.