



September, 2015

Reviewed by Josh Reynolds

Long-time followers of this large estate, which was a pioneer in the Central Coast, shouldn't be surprised that sommeliers whose focus often unfairly shuns California wines in general have a soft spot for what owner Brian Talley calls "wines that can seduce with understatement," which is the style that was always the goal here, "because it's what this part of the region does best." Indeed, Talley's wines match up very nicely with the best that the Sta. Rita Hills, for example, has to offer, matching those wines for perfume, silkiness and vibrancy of fruit. They age extremely well too, "but on balance, not weight," as Talley told me.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay, Edna Valley - 91 Points

Light yellow-gold. An exotically perfumed bouquet evokes dried citrus and orchard fruits, graham cracker and honeydew melon, with a subtle mineral note in the background. Sappy and penetrating on the palate, with intense melon and tangerine flavors picking up a stony element with air. This deep yet lively Chardonnay finishes with strong thrust and lingering stoniness.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley - 91 Points

Pale gold. Aromas of orange, pineapple, white flowers and smoky lees. Spicy, high-pitched and focused, with juicy citrus and orchard fruit flavors given further punch by building minerality. Shows strong tension on the smoky, floral finish, which leaves behind a suggestion of iodine.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Monte Sereno Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 92 Points

Pale gold. Mineral- and spice-accented aromas of Meyer lemon, orange zest and pear skin, with subtle smoke and floral nuances adding complexity. Bright, incisive citrus and orchard fruit flavors become weightier with air, picking up notes of anise and chamomile. Fleshy, energetic Chardonnay with firm closing bite and strong mineral-driven persistence.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Oliver's Vineyard, Edna Valley - 92 Points

Light yellow-gold. Deeply pitched pear nectar, anise, jasmine and iodine scents show very good clarity and an emerging gingery element. Concentrated orchard fruit flavors are sharpened by a suggestion of dusty minerals and a late jolt of white pepper. The floral note repeats strongly on the finish, which hangs on with excellent focus and tenacity.

2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 93 Points

Pale yellow. High-pitched, smoke-accented citrus and orchard fruit and floral aromas are complicated by a chalky nuance and a hint of iodine. Dry, mineral-driven Meyer lemon, yellow plum and toasted brioche flavors convey a suave blend of power and finesse and pick up a mineral flourish with aeration. The iodine note comes back strong on the finish, which lingers with excellent mineral persistence.

Continued...



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[2013 Talley Vineyards Chardonnay Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 93 Points](#)

Light, bright yellow. Intensely perfumed scents of fresh orange, quince, honeysuckle and ginger. Taut and sharply focused, offering concentrated citrus and orchard fruit flavors and a suggestion of honeysuckle. Shows excellent clarity and drive on the finish, which leaves notes of orange zest and iodine behind.

[2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir, Edna Valley - 91 Points](#)

Deep red. Ripe red fruits and rose oil on the nose, with a mineral nuance emerging with aeration. Sappy and penetrating on the palate, offering concentrated raspberry and bitter cherry flavors that take a smoky turn as the wine opens with air. Finishes with slow-building tannins, an echo of candied flowers and very good persistence.

[2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley - 92 Points](#)

Vivid red. Intense aromas of fresh red berries and rose oil, plus suggestions of blood orange and dusty minerals. Silky and fine-grained, offering nervy raspberry and bitter cherry flavors and a hint of candied rose. Delicate and precise but also deep, with gentle tannins building slowly on the long, sharply focused finish.

[2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir East Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 93 Points](#)

Vivid red. Fresh raspberry, spicecake and potpourri on the vibrant, mineral-accented nose. Juicy, finely etched red fruit and rose pastille flavors show excellent depth and vivacity, with a deeper note of cola coming up on the back end. Finishes on a sweet raspberry note, with excellent power, focus and length.

[2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Stone Corral Vineyard, Edna Valley - 92 Points](#)

Brilliant ruby-red. A heady, intensely perfumed bouquet evokes black raspberry and cherry-cola, potpourri and Asian spices, with a zesty mineral topnote. Shows impressive depth as well as vivacity, offering fresh red berry and floral pastille flavors that gain weight with air. Spreads out nicely on the finish, which features supple tannins and lingering floral and allspice notes.

[2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 93 Points](#)

Bright ruby-red. Potent, mineral-laced red fruit and floral pastille scents pick up deeper cola and licorice qualities with aeration. Juicy, penetrating and pure, offering fresh raspberry and candied rose flavors and a suggestion of blood orange that sharpens the back half. Closes spicy and very long, with smooth tannins shaping the wine's sweet, juicy fruit. This suave Pinot was made with 30% whole clusters.

[2013 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley - 94 Points](#)

Deep red. A highly perfumed bouquet evokes fresh red fruits, rose pastille and Asian spices, plus a zesty mineral topnote. Juicy, lithe and sharply focused, offering intense raspberry and bitter cherry flavors that become weightier with air. Shows excellent power and focus on the incisive, gently tannic finish, which features notes of allspice and raspberry liqueur.