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Reviewed by Matt Kettmann

2014 Talley Vineyards Estate Chardonnay, Arroyo Grande Valley

92 Points

Daffodils, lemon rinds and yellow apples rise on the nose of this bottling like a delicate flower petal. The palate is also finely toned, light in style and easy to enjoy, with hints of limestone, sea salt, Meyer lemon and Gravenstein apple.

2014 Monte Sereno Vineyard Chardonnay, Arroyo Grande Valley

94 Points

This bottling from the family's smallest vineyard is as special as the three-acre site itself, offering intriguing chive blossom aromas on the nose alongside key lime and pungent honeydew. The palate is laser focused and tense with acidity and structure, showing lime pith, pink grapefruit zest and a chalky minerality reminiscent of crushed sea shell on the finish.

2014 Oliver's Vineyard Chardonnay, Edna Valley

94 Points

This bottling screams white earth, with a chalk- and riverstone-like minerality and clotted cream and lemon scents. That minerality carries through to the palate, where a chalky note blends with Asian pear and marshmallow. It's a study in how to present delicate flavors with pizzazz, which the Talley family has been known to do.

2014 Rincon Vineyard Chardonnay, Arroyo Grande Valley

93 Points

Tart Mandarin orange rind is woven into riper aromas of Anjou pear and honey butter on the nose of this wine. Its palate is Chablis-like, with lime, lemon and kumquat flavors, strung from a nervy, chalky spine, finishing with limestone and gravel touches.

2014 Rosemary's Vineyard Chardonnay, Arroyo Grande Valley

94 Points

Sharp lime and pithy grapefruit notes accented by sour cream, chalk and limestone lead the nose of this wine from the pioneering Talley family. Nectarine, sea salt and Gravenstein apple flavors play on the palate, which strikes a happy balance between savory and tart, finishing with buttery depth.

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2014 Talley Vineyards Pinot Noir, Edna Valley

92 Points

A rewarding wine for its price, this bottling from winemaker Eric Johnson weaves accessible butter-crust cherry pie and vanilla aromas with bright, nuanced touches of hibiscus, rose petal and mace on the nose. The palate unfolds in layers, mulberry and plum fruit giving way to crushed sage and roasted fennel notes, each as texturally compelling as the last.

2014 Stone Corral Vineyard Pinot Noir, Edna Valley

92 Points

From a vineyard owned by Talley but shared in equal parts with two other wineries, this bottling is snappy on the nose with black raspberry, graphite, sweet juniper and rose hip aromas. On the palate, it's light in body and lively with acidic energy, offering raspberry, tart plum skin and sour cherry, inflected with anise spice. There is significant length to the mouthwatering finish.

2014 East Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir, Arroyo Grande Valley

92 Points

This bottling comes off a select corner of the Talley family ranch and is quite shy on the nose at first, reluctantly offering beet, cranberry, and cooked strawberry aromas, with the slightest touch of caramelization and loam. The flavors tend toward bramble, with wild thyme, white pepper and oregano, starting off simple but growing persistent and beautiful as the wine opens.

2014 Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir, Arroyo Grande Valley

93 Points

Soft yet dark aromas of alpine strawberry, blackberry, pepper and leather need time to open on this bottling's tightly packed nose. With patience, the palate releases layers of flavor, from cranberry and pomegranate to wild herb, crushed rocks and earthy spices. Drink 2018–2028.

2014 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir, Arroyo Grande Valley

93 Points

The unfolding layers of aroma on the nose of this bottling—sesame, white pepper, rose and wild berry, to name a few—keep one coming back for more. The palate is textured and finishes on an uplifting note, showing raspberry, dried flowers, fresh herbs and a hint of menthol toward the end.

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