



## REVIEWS - VINOUS - JANUARY 2023

### CHARDONNAY

#### 2021 ARIES CHARDONNAY

The 2021 Chardonnay Aries is gorgeous. Bright and floral, with terrific depth, the Aries is seriously impressive. Lemon confit, white flowers, mint, chalk and white pepper lend notable aromatic brilliance. Vineyard sites are Charles Heintz, Gaps Crown, Durell and the Estate, which is pretty impressive at this level.

**91 points**

#### 2021 HAWK HILL VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

The 2021 Hawk Hill Vineyard Chardonnay is another impressive wine in this range. White pepper, chalk, crushed rocks, mint and lemon peel all grace this transparent, nuanced Chardonnay. There is a feeling of vibrant energy here that is compelling. Bright saline notes accent the finish.

**93 points**

#### 2021 MARINE LAYER VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

The 2021 Marine Layer Vineyard Chardonnay is dense and unctuous in the glass. Apricot, tangerine peel, mint and baked apple tart are all amplified. This heady, racy Chardonnay is seriously impressive. Tropical overtones and a kiss of new French oak lead into the layered, sumptuous finish. This is one of the best wines I have tasted from marine Layer. Superb.

**95 points**



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### PINOT NOIR

#### 2021 LYRA PINOT NOIR

The 2021 Lyra Pinot Noir is a very pretty, exotic wine. Crushed red berry fruit, cinnamon, mint and blood orange lend notable complexity to this racy, flavorful appellation level Pinot Noir. Vineyard sites are Gaps Crown, Whistler, Dutton-Gravenstein and Dutton-Jentoft. Drink it over the next handful of years.

**91 points**

#### 2021 WHISTLER VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The 2021 Whistler Vineyard Pinot Noir is a wild, powerful wine. Black cherry, gravel, spice and cured meats are all dialed up. There's very good intensity here, but also quite a bit of rusticity in the flavor and tannin profile. This is a good wine but I am not sure if this site is the best fit for Marine Layer. The acids and tannins need time to settle down.

**93 points**

#### 2021 DUTTON-JENTOFT VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The 2021 Dutton-Jentoft Vineyard Pinot Noir is rich and opulent, with tons of fruit density, qualities that are such signatures of this site. Sweet red cherry/plum fruit, spice, new leather, cedar and dried flowers are front and center. This rich, textured Pinot offers tons of immediacy. My only quibbles here are that the fruit feels a bit candied, while the tannins lack polish. The Dutton-Jentoft Vineyard is capable of more, in my view.

**93 points**

#### 2021 MARINE LAYER VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The 2021 Marine Layer Vineyard Pinot Noir is fabulous. Rich, deep and explosive, the 2021 possesses tremendous depth and textural intensity. Black cherry, plum, spice, ne leather and lavender all race across the palate. The 2021 marries fruit intensity and energy in grand style, finishes with notable focus and substance. The mix of clones here (Camera, Mt. Eden, 667 and Suitcase) works so well.

**95 points**

#### 2021 DUTTON-GRAVENSTEIN VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The 2021 Dutton-Gravenstein Vineyard Pinot Noir, 100% Calera on Goldridge, is the star in this range. Deep and explosive, with notable whole cluster savoriness, the 2021 possesses off the charts richness, but also tremendous nuance. Red/purplish fruit, iron, sage, mint, dried herbs and blood orange infuse the 2021 with tons of complexity and pedigree. If this is a sign of what is to come at Marine Layer, the future looks very bright.

**96 points**