

MARINE  
LAYER  
WINES  
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REVIEWS - ANTONIO GALLONI - VINOUS  
January 2024

*Whites*

**2020 GAP'S CROWN Vineyard Blanc de Blancs**

The 2020 Blanc de Blancs from Gap's Crown Vineyard is understated and finessed. Citrus, white flowers, mint, and crushed rocks abound. This nervy, taut sparkling wine possesses fine balance and tons of class. It is also hugely promising.

**91 points**

**2022 ARIES Chardonnay**

The 2022 Chardonnay Aries is a very pretty, understated wine. Light tropical accents, apricot, mint, tangerine oil and marzipan are all laced together. Silky and refined, the 2022 is wonderfully classy, not to mention incredibly delicious. It's a terrific introduction to this lineup.

**92 points**

**2021 CHARLES HEINTZ Vineyard Chardonnay**

The 2021 Chardonnay Charles Heintz Vineyard is fabulous. It's also one of the most refined Chardonnays I have tasted here. Orchard fruit, wild flowers, mint, white pepper and chalk are all finely sketched. The 2021 offers the exotic beauty of Heintz, tempered by the bright acids of the vintage. It's a gorgeous wine in every way.

**94 points**

**2021 DURELL Vineyard Chardonnay**

The 2021 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard is a powerful wine that shows the natural structure of the year. A large-scaled, expansive Chardonnay, the 2021 is a broad-shouldered, phenolic wine endowed with notable textural intensity. Apricot, mint, dried herbs, and light tropical inflections build, all framed by a discreet touch of oak that brings it all together..

**95points**

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*Reds*

**2022 LYRA Pinot Noir**

The 2022 Pinot Noir Lyra is juicy and super-expressive right out of the gate. Succulent red/purplish fruit, lavender, spice, menthol, and blood orange give the 2022 notable raciness. A whole range of floral and savory top notes lift the finish. The 30% stems are not especially noticeable. Vineyard sources are Marine Layer, Dutton-Jentoft, Bohemian, and Gap's Crown.

**92 points**

**2021 GAP'S CROWN Vineyard Pinot Noir**

The 2021 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard is a potent, deep wine. Dried herbs, menthol, tobacco, cedar, and mocha add to an impression of somber intensity.

**94 points**

**2021 MOON MOUNTAIN Cabernet Sauvignon**

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Moon Mountain District is a potent, explosive wine. Black fruit, new leather, licorice, spice, chocolate, and dried herbs race across the palate. Firm Moon Mountain tannins are very much front and center. The 2021 marries old-school classicism with a more modern expression of fruit density and texture. Bottling on the early side, with about 14 months in barrel, yields a Cabernet with bold, upfront fruit. This is a fine debut.

**93 points**