

MARINE LAYER

W I N E S

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REVIEWS - JAMES SUCKLING

February 2025

2023 ARIES Chardonnay

Beautiful balance, great acidity and a sense of minerality bring a lot of energy to this vivid wine. It's a blend of several of their noted vineyard-designate wines. Subtle crisp-apple, Bosc-pear, almond, nutmeg and flint flavors grow on the palate and linger on the finish. Drink or hold.

93 points

2022 HAWK HILL Vineyard Chardonnay

Very interesting and well-balanced wine that's acid driven but also shows plenty of ripe fruit and judicious new-oak accents. Crisp apples and golden apples with hints of marzipan, vanilla bean and nutmeg. Nice, long finish. Drink or hold.

94 points

2022 MARINE LAYER Vineyard Chardonnay

A beautiful, complex wine with oodles of pears and marzipan. Medium-bodied and well-balanced allowing the richness to shine through. Made from 1 acre of Wente clone grapes, aged in 30-35% new French barrels and spending an extra three months in barrel compared to most chardonnays. Drink or hold.

94 points

2022 DURELL Vineyard Chardonnay

This really stands out for its savory, almost nutty character and brilliant balance, but with great richness and luxuriousness. Made from mostly Wente clone grapes grown on a sloping site. Medium bodied and opulent. Drink now or hold.

95 points

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2022 LYRA Pinot Noir

So aromatic, flavorful and classic in style for a pinot noir, with medium body, moderate tannins and good length on the finish. Black tea, black cherries, bay leaf and bergamot. Blended from several vineyard-designate properties and fermented with 30% whole clusters. Drink now or hold.

94 points

2022 MARINE LAYER Vineyard Pinot Noir

This powerful, focused and concentrated wine comes from a small vineyard owned by Marine Layer's founders, planted with Calera, Mt. Eden and suitcase clones gleaned from Burgundy. Offers incredible black-cherry, bay-leaf, forest-floor and black-tea flavors. 40% whole clusters in the fermentation. Drink now or hold.

94 points

2022 DUTTON-JENTOFT Vineyard Pinot Noir

So aromatic, floral and generous in ripe red and black fruits and lively oak spices. It's a bold, concentrated and pure wine from an extreme coastal site that seems to pack in more fruit, more violets, more cinnamon and cloves than is possible. Drink now or hold.

95 points

2022 DUTTON-UPP ROAD Vineyard Pinot Noir

A bold, powerfully flavored wine that feels full-bodied and has vivid dark-fruit flavors, yet it's well-balanced and moderate in alcohol. Elements of forest floor and mushrooms enhance the black cherries and dark plums, backed by medium tannins and good length. Drink now or hold.

93 points