

MARINE LAYER

W I N E S



REVIEWS - VINOUS · ANTONIO GALLONI - JANUARY 2025

"This is a fabulous set of wines from Marine Layer. Proprietor Baron Ziegler and winemaker Rob Fischer have been on a roll over the last few years. I was so impressed with what I tasted. The wines capture an attractive stylistic middle ground that melds together forward fruit with strong coastal, cool-climate influences while also capturing tons of site character. That's a winning formula in my book. The Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the Marine Layer estate vineyard are among the highlights, as are the 2023 Chardonnay Aries and 2023 Pinot Noir Lyra, appellation bottlings that make me look forward to tasting the complete range of wines from this young vintage." - Antonio Galloni



2023 ARIES Chardonnay

The 2023 Chardonnay Aries is a gorgeous appellation-level wine. Bright and focused, with notable tension, the 2023 is seriously impressive. Lemon confit, marzipan, white flowers and chalk all race out the glass. The energy of the vintage shines. This is such a classy wine.

92 points



2022 CHARLES HEINTZ Vineyard Chardonnay

The 2022 Chardonnay Charles Heintz Vineyard is a very rare wine that captures the essential exoticness of Heintz with both tension and salinity. Lemon confit, white truffle, tangerine peel and mint build nicely. Oily and textured, yet with terrific brightness, the Heintz is positively stellar.

95 points



2022 DURELL Vineyard Chardonnay

The 2022 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard is a powerful, phenolic wine. Production was just two puncheons. Apricot, white flowers, spice and chamomile all take shape in the glass.

93 points



2022 MARINE LAYER Vineyard Chardonnay

The 2022 Chardonnay Marine Layer Vineyard is a wine of real dimension and class. Like all the Chardonnays here, the Marine Layer Vineyard Chardonnay is bright and focused, but it also has enough mid-palate depth and dynamic energy not to be austere. Hints of tangerine peel, crushed flowers, hazelnut and spice all build nicely. Impressive.

94 points

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2023 LYRA Pinot Noir

The 2023 Pinot Noir Lyra is a fine introduction to the Marine Layer wines. Spice, crushed flowers, red berry fruit, and a kiss of French oak are all laced together. This open-knit, inviting Pinot is irresistible. The 30% stems are not evident -- instead, it is the fruit that speaks loudest. What a joyous wine this is.

92 points



2022 DUTTON-JENTOFT Vineyard Pinot Noir

The 2022 Pinot Noir Dutton-Jentoft is another terrific wine in this range. Nuances from Swan and Calera clones with a touch of stems all meld together in the glass. Jentoft is one of the great sites on the Sonoma Coast. Red-toned fruit, blood orange, pomegranate, and spice open effortlessly. Floral overtones lift the finish.

95 points



2022 DUTTON-UPP ROAD Vineyard Pinot Noir

The 2022 Pinot Noir Dutton-Upp Road Vineyard is powerful, deep, and beguiling. Rich, heady fruit and strong whole cluster notes yield a wild, exotic wine that offers so much character. Spice, cedar, tobacco, dried flowers, mocha and rose petal are some of the many nuances that emerge with air. This is a gorgeous, complete Pinot.

95 points



2022 MARINE LAYER Vineyard Pinot Noir

The 2022 Pinot Noir Marine Layer Vineyard is the finest wine I have ever tasted from Marine Layer. Rich and sumptuous, with stunning textural depth, the 2022 is seriously impressive. Blue/purplish fruit, lavender, cloves, menthol, licorice, and dried flowers build in the glass, saturating the palate on the way to its explosive finish. The 2022 is a blend of Calera, Mt Eden, and suitcase clones, with a healthy dollop (40%) of whole clusters.

97 points