An error has occurred while processing PictureBox 'pictureBoxHeader':
Could not create an image with the data read from https://cache3.voyageursduvin.com/producers/Calera-banner.webp. Exception message: Parameter is not valid.
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Calera

Sourced from the historic Mills Vineyard , planted in 1984, the Calera Mills Vineyard Pinot Noir offers a remarkable balance between freshness and depth. With layers of red and dark fruit, and a subtle touch of tobacco leaf, this wine delivers both sophistication and energy.

CALERA

Mills Vineyard Pinot Noir 2019

California, USA



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Region and Vineyards

The **Mills Vineyard** is part of the **Mt. Harlan** appellation, located in the **Gavilan Mountains** about 40 kilometers east of Monterey Bay. The vineyard is planted at an altitude of **670 meters** (2,200 feet), making it one of the highest and coolest vineyard sites in California. The site was selected for its **limestone soils**, which contribute to the wine's minerality and structure, and the cool climate, which preserves the natural acidity and allows for slow ripening of the grapes.

The **growing season** started with replenishing spring rains, followed by temperate, sunny days and cool nights. This long, even growing season allowed the grapes to ripen slowly, resulting in wines with **bright acidity**, pure fruit flavors, and excellent aging potential.

Winemaking

The **Mills Vineyard Pinot Noir** is made from **100% Pinot Noir** and was fermented using **100% whole clusters** with **indigenous yeasts** in open-top fermenters to enhance complexity. The wine was aged for **18 months in French oak barrels**, with 30% new oak to provide structure and 70% neutral oak to maintain the wine's purity and freshness.

This careful winemaking process results in a wine that balances richness and elegance, with a focus on expressing the unique character of the vineyard. The limestone soils and cool-climate conditions shine through in the wine's vibrant acidity and refined texture.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with brilliant clarity.
- **Aroma**: Alluring aromas of **raspberry**, **cherry**, and **bramble**, intertwined with notes of **sweet saddle leather** and a touch of **spice**.
- **Palate**: On the palate, lush layers of **plum** and **ripe blackberry** are framed by **supple tannins**. A hint of **tobacco leaf** adds nuance and sophistication, leading to a robust and complex finish.

CALERA

Mills Vineyard Pinot Noir 2019

Did you know?

The **Mills Vineyard** was planted in **1984**, making it one of the oldest Pinot Noir vineyards in Mt. Harlan. The vineyard is **own-rooted**, meaning the vines are not grafted onto a separate rootstock, a practice that is rare but allows for a more direct expression of the terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast Pork with Plum Sauce**: The wine's plum and blackberry flavors complement the sweetness of the plum sauce, while its tannins balance the richness of the pork.
- **Wild Mushroom Risotto**: The earthiness of the mushrooms pairs beautifully with the wine's dark fruit and subtle spice, while its acidity cuts through the creamy texture of the risotto.
- **Duck Breast with Cherry Reduction**: The wine's bright fruit and supple tannins are a perfect match for the richness of duck, with the cherry reduction echoing the fruit flavors in the wine.
- **Aged Gouda**: The wine's robust finish and fruit-driven profile are complemented by the nutty, caramelized flavors of aged Gouda.



Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 94 Points (2018)

Small yields and moderate to warm weather result in a Mills that's generous in 2018, with a richness that's delicious and satisfying. Mike Waller has managed to retain a wild savor here that gives the wine completeness and intricacy, a complex spice of dust and herb oils, sundried tomato and an earthy, rooty depth, all woven seamlessly around the fruit. It should age beautifully.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 93 Points (2018)

Roasted cherry and juniper aromas give a rugged mountain angle to this bottling, but there's also splashes of fresh fruit. Gritty tannins could use a touch more time, but they wrap firmly around flavors of elderberry, blackberry, chaparral herb and oak. Drink 2023–2038.Cellar Selection



Wine Spectator (WS) : 92 Points (2018)

Enticing, with expressive blood orange, red tea and mulled raspberry aromas and flavors racing through. Features light incense and savory accents on the finish, which shows nice tension and length.