

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

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.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir



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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.



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