JAMES SUCKLING | WEEKLY TASTING REPORT A SIGH OF RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA'S 2021

JANUARY 2024



very enticing."

2021 MARTIN RAY RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON DIAMOND MOUNTAIN DISTRICT | NAPA VALLEY

"This voluptuous, full-bodied and sleek wine is layered in luxurious blue and black fruits that saturate the palate while superfine tannins shape the middle and finish. Mint and floral notes accent the gorgeous fruits. A truly impressive mountain wine that punches way above its price range. Best after 2029."

- 2021 MARTIN RAY RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON STAGS LEAP DISTRICT | NAPA VALLEY
 - "Typical for this appellation. Lovely on the nose with black currant, pine needle and bark undertones that follow through to a medium body, with firm and fine tannins that run the length of the wine. Very classy. Some graphite. Give this three or four years to come together. Drink after 2027."
- 2021 MARTIN RAY RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

 HOWELL MOUNTAIN | NAPA VALLEY

 "Blackberries and blueberries with bark and violet aromas that follow through to a medium body with a dense palate. Yet it's not overpowering and shows length and focus. Chewy like typical Howell Mountain cabs and
- 2021 MARTIN RAY RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

 MOUNT VEEDER | NAPA VALLEY

 "Deep and robust, this full-flavored and firmly tannic wine is powerful with black cherries, cassi
 - "Deep and robust, this full-flavored and firmly tannic wine is powerful with black cherries, cassis and mint, cloaked in vivid, mouth-coating tannins. The depth, concentration and layering are impressive and bode well for further development with age. Best from 2029."
- 2021 MARTIN RAY RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

 SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

 "Plenty of pretty herbal character with blackcurrant and bay leaf on both the nose and the palate. Medium- to full-bodied. Firm, juicy and flavorful finish. Very typical for Santa Cruz Mountains. Drink in two or three years."
- 2022 MARTIN RAY RESERVE PINOT NOIR HALLBERG RANCH | RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2022 MARTIN RAY RESERVE PINOT NOIR

"A beautiful perfume of violets, crushed cherries and cinnamon is followed by an elegant, velvety mouth-feel and vibrant ripe fruit. A nice tang of cranberries and orange zest lifts the ample red and black fruit on moderate, fine-grained tannins. A real standout pinot. Best through 2034."

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

"Delicate aromas and subtle but substantial flavors mark this full-bodied, firm and moderately tannic wine. A cinnamon and toast expression from oak aging melds with bright red cherries, strawberries and cranberries. Drink or hold."

- 2022 MARTIN RAY RESERVE CONCRETE CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
 - "This unoaked wine was fermented on native yeast, then aged on its lees exclusively in concrete egg vessels. A medium body and fresh acidity make a good structure for the full fruit flavors and chalky, mineral accents that the concrete brings out. A brilliant alternative to oak bomb Chardonnays. Screw cap."
- 2022 MARTIN RAY RESERVE CHARDONNAY SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS
 - "There's a steely and flinty character to this with dried apple and apricot aromas that follow through to a medium body, with some dense fruit in the center palate yet it remains fresh and vivid at the finish. Some tangy undertones. Bright. Drink or hold. Screw cap."
- 2019 MARTIN RAY BRUT ROSÉ RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
 - "Made from all estate-grown pinot noir, it has subtle raspberries and red cherries and is fragrant and fresh. A very slight pink color, floral aromas, then crisp and clear red fruit, confectionary style. Balanced and dry at 3 grams per liter of sugar."
- 2022 MARTIN RAY CHARDONNAY MONTEREY COUNTY | SONOMA COUNTY
 - "A flinty and fresh white with sliced lemon, green apple and hints of matchstick. Medium body. Tangy with some bread dough undertones. Like a minerally Chablis. Drink or hold. Screw cap."
- 2022 MARTIN RAY PINOT NOIR SONOMA COUNTY | MONTEREY COUNTY
 - "A tensioned and pretty pinot noir for the money with dried strawberry and hints of chocolate. Medium body. Firm and tensioned palate with complex fruit and a delicious finish. Drink now. Screw cap."
- 2022 MARTIN RAY ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR SONOMA COUNTY | MONTEREY COUNTY
 - "Aromas of peaches and hibiscus with some lemon follow through to a medium body with a fruity center palate and a creamy textured finish. Lightly candied peaches. Dry at the end. Drink now."
- 91 2022 MARTIN RAY SAUVIGNON BLANC NAPA VALLEY
 - "Light herb and toast aromas lead to a full, smooth palate of melon, golden apples, lemon and lime zest. A medium body and crisp acidity lends attractive balance; fermented with indigenous yeast and aged in stainless steel. Drink now."

SYNTHESIS

- 2021 SYNTHESIS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY
 - "A solid 2021 cab with blackcurrant, blackberry and wet earth character on both the nose and palate. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm tannins. Linear and lightly chewy finish. Some graphite. Drinkable but better in three or four years."
- 2022 SYNTHESIS PINOT NOIR ESTATE | RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

"Floral aromas with lavender and violets to the blue berry character. Citrus, too. This character follows through to the palate which is medium-bodied with firm tannins and lively at the end. Made from Dijon clones. Drink or hold."



2022 ANGELINE RESERVE PINOT NOIR MENDOCINO COUNTY

"A fresh, mildly oaky wine that blends tasty red cherry, bay leaf, black tea and vanilla-cinnamon notes on a full body with soft tannins."

- 2022 ANGELINE RESERVE SAUVIGNON BLANC CALIFORNIA
 - "A delicious blend of herbaceous and fruity elements on a good, crisp texture. Tangy lemon and lime notes are accented by light piney, minty notes from the first sniff to the crisp finish. Drink now. Screw cap."
- 2022 ANGELINE ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR
 CALIFORNIA

"Smooth and subtle, this light-bodied wine offers light cherry and plum aromas, slight oak spice nuances, an easy mouthfeel and a lingering finish. Drink now."

- 2022 ANGELINE CHARDONNAY CALIFORNIA
 - "Dry and fresh with a matchstick and dried apple character. Medium body and steely at the end. Dried pears come through in the finish. Drink now."
- 2022 ANGELINE PINOT NOIR
 CALIFORNIA
 "Aromas of strawberry pie and cherries follow through to a medium body with nice fruit and an easy finish.
- Remains fresh at the end. Drink now. Screw cap."
- 2021 ANGELINE RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

 MENDOCINO COUNTY

 "Good and sturdy, dressed up in oak notes of vanilla and coconut, this full-bodied wine wraps velvety tannins around tasty, ripe blackberry and black cherry flavors. Drink now Screw cap."
- 2022 ANGELINE CABERNET SAUVIGNON CALIFORNIA

"Aromas of currants and hints of fresh herbs and vanilla follow through to a medium body with pleasant fruit and a fruity finish with a slightly sweet oak undertone at the finish. Drink now. Screw cap."