

Year	Wine Name	Rating
 2009	Calera Aligote Mt Harlan	89
<i>The 2009 Aligote is a steely, ripe, elegant white with excellent acidity and minerality as well as loads of quince, white currant, and honeysuckle notes offered in a medium-bodied, forceful yet refreshing style. Enjoy it over the next several years.</i>		
 2009	Calera Chardonnay Mt Harlan	96
<i>The brilliant 2009 Chardonnay Mt. Harlan, the finest Chardonnay Calera has made in many years, was produced from 1.65 tons of fruit per acre, and spent 10 months in French oak barrels. A chalky component (from the limestone soils of this appellation) is intermixed with quince, white currant, nectarine, orange blossom, and lemon butter notes in an incredibly complex, crystalline style. Full-bodied with stunning concentration, length, and texture, this fabulous Chardonnay could easily pass for a grand cru white Burgundy in a blind tasting. Enjoy it over the next 5-7 years.</i>		
 2008	Calera Pinot Noir Central Coast	90
<i>An excellent bargain in Pinot Noir, the 2008 Pinot Noir Central Coast offers a delicious introduction to the Calera style. Fifty percent whole clusters were used, and the wine was aged 11 months in Francois Freres Burgundy barrels, of which 10% were new. Bottled unfiltered, it is a blend of fruit from four separate Central Coast counties, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Benito, and Santa Clara. Attractive notes of roasted herbs, sweet and sour cherries, strawberry jam, sassafras, and earth emerge from this medium to full-bodied, supple-textured, seductive red. Drink it over the next 2-3 years.</i>		
 2007	Calera Pinot Noir Mt Harlan	91
<i>A more serious effort, the 2007 Pinot Noir Mt. Harlan (75% Jensen, 15% Ryan, and 10% Mills vineyards) was aged 16 months in French oak (very little new) with lots of stems. Its evolved plum/garnet color is followed by abundant aromas of sweet cherries, raspberries, strawberries, underbrush, and damp forest floor. This complex, evolved, medium to full-bodied beauty should be consumed over the next 3-5 years.</i>		
 2007	Calera Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard	97
<i>A true Pinot Noir rock star is the 2007 Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard. From a 13.8-acre vineyard planted in 1975, and cropped at 1.46 tons of fruit per acre, the Jensen cuvee spent 17 months in Francois Freres cooperage, of which 30% was new. One of the bigger production efforts (1,113 cases), it exhibits a deep ruby/purple-tinged color as well as a sweet, explosive nose of ripe raspberries, black cherries, spice box, earth, and chalk. Deep, rich, and full-bodied, it is the sexiest, most seductive wine of all these 2007 Pinots. A round, generous, intense red that cascades over the palate with no hard edges, it is capable of 15-20 years of cellaring.</i>		
 2007	Calera Pinot Noir Mills Vineyard	95
<i>From a 13.1-acre vineyard planted in 1997, the 2007 Pinot Noir Mills Vineyard was cropped at an absurdly low .84 tons of fruit per acre. This beauty offers up notes of forest floor, raspberries, fresh mushrooms, sweet currants, and meat juices. The provocative, riveting aromatics are followed by a medium to full-bodied wine with sweet tannins, dense, chewy, lush fruit, good acidity, and a 40-second finish. Drink this profound Pinot Noir over the next decade or more.</i>		
 2007	Calera Pinot Noir Reed Vineyard	91
<i>From a northeast-facing, cool climate vineyard, the 2007 Pinot Noir Reed Vineyard comes from a 4.4-acre vineyard planted in 1975 (one of California's oldest Pinot Noir sites). Although it displays a light, somewhat feeble color, it is a complex Pinot offering vegetative, autumnal fall foliage, mushroom, herb, and spice box characteristics intermixed with notions of sassafras, cherry, and plum-like fruit. My least favorite of these offerings, it should drink well for 8-10 years.</i>		
 2007	Calera Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard	93
<i>From one of the property's coolest sites, the 2007 Pinot Noir Ryan Vineyard reveals nearly overwhelming notes of sassafras, root vegetables, plums, red currants, and raspberries. It is a spicy, earthy effort with an autumnal-like herbaceousness. Aged 17 months in French oak (30% new), it is a Pinot Noir for those who prefer that varietal's spicy, stemmy, earthy side. Nevertheless, there is still plenty of fruit in this complex, singular cuvee.</i>		
 2007	Calera Pinot Noir Selleck Vineyard	98
<i>Even better is the 2007 Pinot Noir Selleck Vineyard, perhaps the finest Pinot ever made by Calera. This 4.8-acre vineyard planted in 1975 has a much warmer southwest exposure than some of the estate's other sites. Only 411 cases were produced of this compelling Pinot Noir. Sassafras, black cherry, raspberry, plum, pomegranate, cedar, and underbrush aromas are accompanied by a full-bodied, ripe wine with beautiful acids, an intense underlying minerality/terroir character, and a long finish. The 2007 Selleck is slightly less evolved than the Jensen, but it is an impressive Pinot that should age effortlessly for 10-15+ years. Kudos to Josh Jensen for producing this remarkable group of wines!</i>		
 2007	Calera Pinot Noir de Villiers Vineyard	92
<i>The debut release of a new bottling, the dark ruby-hued 2007 Pinot Noir de Villiers is from a 13.1-acre vineyard planted in 1997 on pure limestone soils. Cropped at an unbelievably low .78 tons of fruit per acre, the wine spent 16 months in Francois Freres oak barrels (30% new), and was bottled without filtration. It offers notes of rhubarb, sassafras, sweet cherries, strawberries, and herbs in a full-bodied, dense, complex, juicy format. With silky tannins, decent acidity, and a long finish, it should drink well for a decade or more.</i>		
 2009	Calera Vin Gris Pinot Noir Central Coast	91
<i>If you love strawberry, sweet cherry, rhubarb, and chalky notes, check out Calera's full-throttle, amazingly fresh yet intense, dark salmon-colored 2009 Vin Gris Pinot Noir. Two of my favorite roses of the season come from the Central Coast ... this one from Calera and the Tablas Creek 2009 Rose. The vivid aromatics are followed by a well-endowed rose that is almost a shock to one's sensitivities given the number of vapid roses in the marketplace. Drink this beauty over the next 1-2 years.</i>		
 2009	Calera Viognier Central Coast	89
<i>A terrific buy, the 2009 Viognier Central Coast (100% Viognier aged in neutral French oak for six months) exhibits notions of lychee nuts, white peaches, apricots, crushed rocks, and honeysuckle, an exuberant, fresh style, medium to full body, and decent acidity. It should drink nicely for 1-2 years.</i>		
 2009	Calera Viognier Mt Harlan	94
<i>Perhaps the finest Viognier I have tasted recently, the 2009 Viognier Mt. Harlan was made from ridiculously low yields of 1.25 tons of fruit per acre, whole cluster pressed, put through full malolactic fermentation, and aged in neutral oak for ten months with no racking. The result is a brilliant expression of Viognier. Nectarine, mango, guava, white peach, and honeysuckle aromas soar from the glass of this full-bodied, concentrated white. It also reveals a good underpinning of fresh acids and minerality. A tour de force for Viognier, it should drink nicely for 1-3 years.</i>		

This may be the strongest group of wines Calera has produced in many years. From their less expensive whites through the generic and single vineyard Pinot Noirs, this remarkable portfolio showcases this idiosyncratic terroir isolated on Mt. Harlan. For starters, Calera has once again made the finest Aligote in America. — Robert Parker