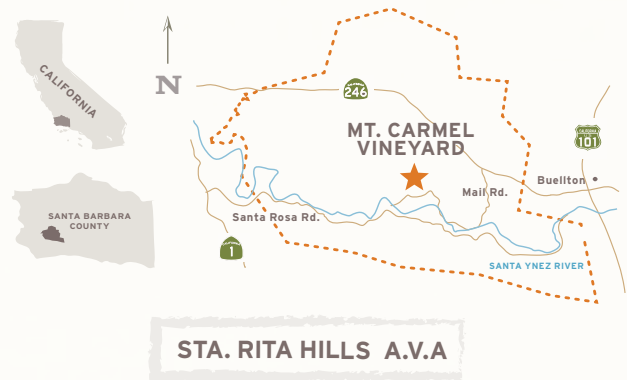


MAIL ROAD

ACCOLADES

PAST VINTAGES



Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2012 MT. CARMEL BLOCKS 2, 3, 5 PINOT NOIR

The 2012 Pinot Noir 2,3,5 Mt. Carmel Vineyard bursts from the glass with a rush of dark red and blue fruits. Spice and floral notes appear later, adding depth and nuance. Overall, the 2,3,5 is deep and explosive to the core, with more ripeness and pure resonance. Then again, this sun-drenched, south-facing site is clearly suited to making wines of superb textural richness and pure depth. Still a bit reticent, the 2012 could use another year or two in bottle. There is so much to like here. The 2,3,5 is a blend of fruit from Blocks 2, 3 and 5.

Rating: 93+ points

2012 MT. CARMEL PINOT NOIR

A model of grace and understatement, the 2012 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard is all about finesse. Freshly cut roses, violets, spices and crushed rocks all add nuance to this transparent, crystalline Pinot endowed with striking finesse. This weightless, utterly impeccable Pinot Noir will transport readers straight to the windswept, rugged hillsides of the Sta. Rita Hills.

Rating: 95 points

2013 MT. CARMEL CHARDONNAY

The 2013 Chardonnay Mt. Carmel Vineyard is vivid and wonderfully alive in the glass. Lemon oil, almonds, sage and mint are some of the many notes that meld together in a deeply expressive, beguiling wine endowed with superb transparency. The flavors are rich and ample, yet the wine's texture is utterly weightless.

The 2013 Chardonnay Mt. Carmel Vineyard is above all else a wine of notable texture and finesse. White orchard fruit, peach and a hint of spice are all given an extra kick of brightness that serves to balance the wine's rich, boisterous personality. The 2013 has acquired lovely tropical inflections that I don't recall seeing last year. The Chardonnay emerges from a parcel of own-rooted vines planted in 1990. The 2013 was done 70% in oak and 30% in stainless steel, with a total 40% new barrels.

Rating: 93 points

2013 Mt. Carmel Blocks 3, 5 Pinot Noir

Mail Road's Pinot Noir 3,5 Mt. Carmel Vineyard is built on texture and roundness. Dark red and blue fruits meld into floral, spiced notes that add lift. The 3,5 is sourced from Blocks 3 and 5, as Block 2, which in the 2012, was torn out and replanted in between vintages. The 2013 is a bit less opulent than the 2012, but it nevertheless possesses gorgeous texture and an expressive, layered personality. It will be interesting to see what another year brings.

Red cherry, spice, new leather and licorice meld together in Mail Road's Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard Blocks 3,5. Dark, supple and beautifully textured in the glass, the 3,5 is also quite a bit bigger and riper than the straight Mt. Carmel Pinot, with a decidedly intense finish.

Rating: 92 points

2013 MT. CARMEL PINOT NOIR

The 2013 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard comes across as embryonic and not fully formed. In this vintage, the vines had less heat early and longer hang time. There is plenty of energy in the glass, not to mention considerable potential for the future. This is another hugely promising Pinot Noir from Mail Road. I can't wait to taste it from bottle.

The 2013 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard speaks to finesse. Luxurious and impeccably layered, the 2013 is positively radiant. At the same time, all the elements take shape effortlessly in the glass, with nothing that sticks out. There is plenty of intensity, but no excess weight. The 2013 was aged in French oak barrels, 33% new.

Rating: 94 points

2014 MT. CARMEL CHARDONNAY

The 2014 Chardonnay Mt. Carmel Vineyard opens with intense aromatics with Sauvignon-leaning nuances. Bright, tense and pulsating with pure energy, the 2014 is a wine of considerable potential. Scents of orchard fruit and white flowers add further complexity, but above all else, the 2014 is a wine to look forward to for overall precision.

Mail Road's 2014 Chardonnay Mt. Carmel Vineyard has also turned out beautifully. Nuanced, layered and deep, but never heavy, the 2014 is wonderfully translucent and expressive. Based on how the 2014 tasted from barrel, I expected the wine to be a bit more intense. Instead, the 2014 has turned out to be more airy and weightless in style. Nevertheless, the wine is quite pretty. Bright, saline notes add to the wine's considerable appeal.

Rating: 94 points

2014 MT. CARMEL BLOCKS 3, 5 PINOT NOIR

The 2014 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard Blocks 3,5 comes across as a bit more laid back than the 2013 tasted alongside it. There is plenty of the natural depth and richness that these blocks seem to confer with such ease, but that is matched by a real sense of polish and finesse. Dark red and blue-fleshed stone fruit, spice, lavender and mint shape the finish. It will be interesting to see how the 2014 develops over the coming year, but its less bombastic style vis-a-vis the 2013 leads me to think it may very well mature into a more complete wine.

The 2014 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard Blocks 3, 5 is even better from bottle than it was from barrel. A deep, sensual wine, the 2014 has grown into an ample, large scaled Pinot that possesses notable pedigree and tons of pure personality. Wild, cherry, plum, violet, spice and sweet spices flesh out effortlessly. What a gorgeous wine this is.

Rating: 94 points

2014 MT. CARMEL PINOT NOIR

A reticent, mysterious wine, the 2014 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard isn't ready to show all of its cards just yet. Still, the 2014 is super-impressive today. Broad and ample on the palate, the 2014 doesn't sacrifice any finesse whatsoever in achieving its natural size. Sweet floral notes laced with violet, mint and sage overtones meld into a core of deep, bluish fruits, all with bright veins of salinity that lend freshness and energy. The 2014 is wonderfully complete, even at this early stage, and is shaping up to be a real jewel of a wine.

The 2014 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard is arrestingly beautiful. Refined and polished to the core, the 2014 exudes brightness and lift, both qualities that are accented by supporting beams of tannin that give the wine its overall shape. Dried rose petal, sweet red berry, chalk and blood orange infuse the finish. The 2014 has really blossomed since I tasted it last year.

Rating: 95 points

2015 MT. CARMEL BLOCKS 2, 3, 5 PINOT NOIR

The 2015 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard Blocks 2, 3, 5 is quite delicate and understated, especially considering the vintage and the inherent qualities of this site. Striking aromatics and inner perfume give the 2015 much of its refined personality. This is an especially elegant and polished Pinot from a site that usually yields much more powerful wines. Today, it is the purity and freshness of the flavors that stand out. The 2015 is the first vintage in which Block 2 is once again part of the blend. The elevated presence (39%) in the wine of Block 2 has fundamentally shifted the style from that of the preceding two vintages during which that block was redeveloped.

Rating: 93-96 points

2015 MT. CARMEL PINOT NOIR

A wine of structure and power, the 2015 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard boasts magnificent intensity and plenty of site specific character. Wild cherry, raspberry jam, menthol, rose petal and lavender are fused together in a deep, resonant Pinot. The 2015 is voluptuous and dramatic from the very first taste. I can't wait to taste it from bottle.

Rating: 93-96 points

2015 MT. CARMEL CHARDONNAY

The 2015 Chardonnay Mt. Carmel Vineyard is dense, powerful and creamy, with veins of chalky, saline notes that underpin the fruit beautifully. Candied lemon, chalk, white pepper and dried pear are some of the signatures. This is one of the more savory, phenolic Chardonnays of the Sta. Rita Hills. Today, it is full of promise.