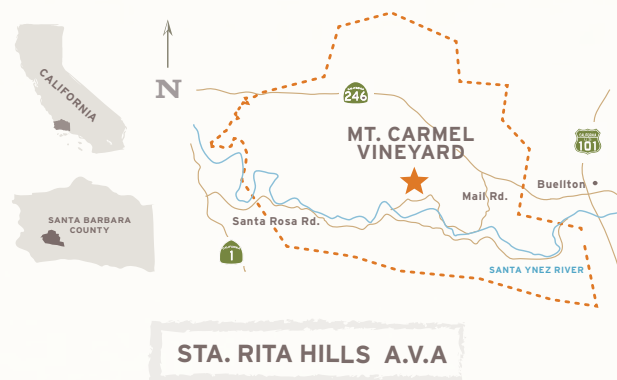


# MAIL ROAD

## ACCOLADES

### PAST VINTAGES



## Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate

This past summer, we were visited by Antonio Galloni, of Vinous, and Jeb Dunnuck, from The Wine Advocate. Antonio and Jeb were kind enough to taste a selection of Mail Road wines. Here are their comments covering the wines from the inaugural Mail Road offering.

In addition to his reviews, Mr. Dunnuck was gracious enough to include Mail Road as “Best of Santa Barbara” in his 2014, end-of-year report.

“Rita Hills, I was blown away by all of their 2012s, and the straight Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard was one of the highest rated Pinot Noirs in the Central Coast Report.”

Focusing exclusively on the Mt Carmel Vineyard located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA, the wines from Mail Road Wines are made by winemaker Matt Dees. As with all of Matt's wines, they lean towards the more structured, fresh and lively end of the spectrum and will benefit from short term cellaring.

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

Leading off the reds, the 2012 Pinot Noir Mt. Carmel Vineyard 2 3 5 is up with the creme de la creme of the vintage. Completely destemmed and aged 11 months in 42% new French oak, it has awesome purity and vibrancy, with classy blackberry, raspberry, rose petal and assorted spring flower-like aromas and flavors. Give this beauty another year in the cellar and enjoy bottles through 2022.

Mail Road Wines is focused exclusively on the Mount Carmel Vineyard in the Sta. Rita Hills, and they have long-term contracts on 3-4 different blocks. These beauties will knock your socks off and they were easily some of the top wines I was able to taste for this report! The 2013s, which were all tasted out of barrel, should be close in quality to the 2012s.

Rating: 95 points

2012 Mt. Carmel Pinot Noir

### 2013 MT. CARMEL CHARDONNAY

Made in a bright, juicy and very focused style, the 2013 Chardonnay Mt Carmel Vineyard gives up classy notes of lemon curd, crushed rocks, mint and green citrus. Medium-bodied, balanced and chiseled, this beauty spent 11 months in 40% new French oak (the balance was equal parts neutral oak and stainless steel) and saw only 30% of the blend going through malolactic fermentation. It will have a decade or more of longevity.

These 2012s from winemaker Matt Dees appear to be on par with the sensational 2012s. Focusing exclusively on the Mt Carmel Vineyard in the Sta. Rita Hills, these 2013s were all harvested September 6-25. The Chardonnay sees partial malolactic fermentation and aging in 40% new French oak. The Pinot Noirs are mostly destemmed and aging occurs in 30-50% new French oak. While these lean toward the leaner end of the spectrum, I think they have brilliant fruit

intensity and length.

Rating: 92 points

### **2013 MT. CARMEL BLOCKS 3, 5 PINOT NOIR**

Fleshing out beautifully since I tasted it from barrel last year, the 2013 Pinot Noir Mt Carmel Vineyard 3 5 offers lots of minerality and saltiness to go with darker-based fruits, crushed violets and cassis. Slightly reserved aromatically, it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, a supple, expansive texture and a big finish. Fermented with a tiny 5% whole-cluster and aged 11 months in 48% new French oak, it's an incredible Pinot Noir that has no problem standing beside the more expensive Mt Carmel bottling. Drink it anytime over the coming decade.

Rating: 95 points

### **2013 MT. CARMEL PINOT NOIR**

Similar to the Mt Carmel 3 5 bottling, except with more tension and vibrancy, the 2013 Pinot Noir Mt Carmel Vineyard spent 16 months in 33% new French oak, with the balance all in neutral oak, before being bottled unfiltered in March, 2015. It offers lots of rose petal, sappy underbrush and liquid-rock characteristics to go with ample cassis and black cherry fruit. Thrillingly textured, pure and seamless, with medium-bodied richness and depth, this is a sensational Pinot Noir from the Sta. Rita Hills that stays fresh and vibrant without making any concessions to fruit or texture. It will have 10-15 years of overall longevity.

Rating: 96 points

### **2014 MT. CARMEL BLOCKS 3, 5 PINOT NOIR**

Made in a more generous, rounded and sexy style, the 2014 Pinot Noir Mt Carmel Vineyard 3 5 offers layers of rose petal, spring flowers, framboise and spice in a medium-bodied, layered, already approachable package. I'm not sure it will be as long lived as the straight Mt Carmel (although I'm not sure it won't be either), but it certainly drinks better in its youth. Enjoy this downright fabulous Pinot over the coming 8-9 years.

Rating: 96 points

### **2014 MT. CARMEL PINOT NOIR**

Moving to the reds, the 2014 Pinot Noir Mt Carmel Vineyard is a heavenly beauty that has Grand Cru complexity in its black cherry, violets, licorice, raspberry and floral aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, elegant, tight and focused, with building tannin, give bottles 3-4 years and drink over the following decade or more.

Rating: 95+ points

### **2014 MT. CARMEL CHARDONNAY**

Leading off with the whites, the 2014 Chardonnay Mt Carmel Vineyard is a racy, vibrant effort that has plenty of tart acidity to go with medium-bodied richness, notes of white peach, white flowers and cream corn, solid mid-palate concentration and a good finish. It needs to be forgotten in the cellar for 3-4 years, and it should keep for a decade after that.

Rating: 91+ points

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