

THE
BOARDROOM

*Fall 2019 - Longboard | Central Coast
9 to 115*

Kinero: Chardonnay Talley Vineyard 2015

100% Chardonnay - Talley Vineyard, Aroyo Grande - 100 cases - Vinous: 93

Young winemaker Anthony Yount's coveted single-vineyard unfiltered Chardonnay spent 15 months in 25% new, French oak. It clocks in at only 13,6%, making it crisp, balanced and complex with bright minerality. Josh Raynolds (Vinous) is a fan: "Silky, concentrated and expansive in the mouth, offering mineral-tinged orchard and pit fruit flavors that show impressive depth and a racy mineral flourish." Enjoy it with salmon and a tarragon cream sauce, scallops, or an avocado salad.

Best: Now-2024

Terry Hoage: The Gap 2013

*64% Grenache Blanc, 31% Roussanne, 5% Picpoul Blanc - Terry Hoage Vineyards, Paso Robles
~ 100 cases - CellarTracker: 89*

The Gap was named for the Templeton Gap, the corridor along Highway 46 West that pulls in cool air from the coast and provides Paso Robles the ability to retain acidity in the grapes. The Gap is Terry Hoage's signature white blend, consisting of the three white Rhone grapes grown on a small, limestone-rich part of the property. Grenache Blanc, with its stone fruit and apricot blossom aromas, dominates the blend. Roussanne offers complexity and floral character, while Picpoul Blanc adds brightness and acidity. A bit of new French oak adds richness and a baking spice notes, making this wine extremely food friendly. Try it with roast chicken!

Best: Now - 2020

Desparada: The Purist 2014

100% Cabernet Sauvignon - Paso Robles - 120 cases

No, it's not a blend and no, there are no Italian grapes in this one. The Purist is 100% pure, California Cab - and only produced in 120 cases! It spent a full 24 months in 60% new French oak. Look for aromas of dark berry, licorice and spice. On the palate, dark cherry and cacao. Lingering finish with some smoky elements along with supple and integrated tannins. This is a big Cab that requires big food - why not a big steak?

Best: 2020-2023

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Denner: Mourvèdre 2009

*100% Mourvèdre - Denner Vineyard, Willow Creek District, Paso Robles - ~400 cases
CellarTracker: 91*

Denner Vineyards, a mainstay in Paso Robles, is no longer producing the single-grape Mourvèdre, and what a shame (though they're doing lots of other great stuff). This is drinking great now and has potential to go even further in a few years' time. This Mourvèdre is true to Westside Paso form – fruit-forward, yet with the varietally distinct chewy, earthy, smoky, dark-chocolaty notes coming through. Food pairing suggestion: Wild game, short ribs or veal.

Best: 2021-2025

Justin: Focus 2009

*94% Syrah, 4% Grenache - Justin Vineyards, Willow Creek District, Paso Robles - 250 cases - Wine
Spectator: 96*

This is truly a showcase wine in any cellar! The mighty Justin Vineyards produced only 250 cases of this, it garnered a 96 score from Wine Spectator, and it was never released it to the public, only their highest-tier wineclub members. And guess what? You own a bottle! Dark cherries and raspberries, a bit of smoke and meaty gaminess. This Syrah calls for a summer BBQ party or a fine winter ribeye steak dinner with your wine-discerning (non-Burghound) friends!

Best: 2020-2025

Booker: My Favorite Neighbor 2009

*25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Syrah, 25% Petit Verdot, 12.5% Malbec, 12.5% Cabernet Franc - Booker
Vineyard, Willow Creek District, Paso Robles - ~500 cases - Suckling: 95, Parker: 93, CellarTracker: 93*

Like Denner, Booker is a small-producer heavyweight in Paso. James Suckling's (95 points) description of this wine might as well have been a description of Eric Jensen, proprietor and winemaker of Booker: "Wild." Parker (93 points) may have put it a bit more elegantly by declaring, "Named after Jensen's neighbor, Stephan Asseo of L'Aventure, the 2009 My Favorite Neighbor boasts gorgeous depth and seemingly endless layers of fruit to match an impeccable, polished personality that is absolutely irresistible." In any case, you get it: You've got a rare wine on your hands! No reason to hesitate – enjoy it soon...

Best: Now-2021