

THE
BOARDROOM

Summer 2019 - Longboard 1 Central Coast

These Go To 11

Paix Sur Terre: Ugni Blanc 2018

100% Ugni Blanc – Kiler Grove Vineyard, Paso Robles - <100 cases - CellarTracker: 93

This is hands down one of the best and most interesting whites in Paso. Ugni Blanc is otherwise known as the brandy grape, and there is precious little of this grown in California. Picked early and at only 13,2%, it saw 2 months in steel tank. It's chalky with high acidity and key lime/grapefruit flavors, making it very versatile as a food wine. Try it with light, poached fish, shellfish, salad, or a cream-based sauce.

Best: Now-2021

Tensley: All Blocks Estate Blend 2017

*85% Grenache, 14% Syrah, 1% Mourvedre – Tensley Vineyard, Santa Barbara - 350 cases
Jeb Dunnock 95, Wine Spectator: 94*

“Polish and personality,” according to Wine Spectator. This is only the third vintage of the Tensley wine that features the best from their own vineyards, including Colson Canyon. Colson Canyon brings deep, dark berry notes, while Tensley Vineyard brings savory, earthy notes. Throw in some liquorice for good measure. It is truly a stunner right now after a good decant, but try to save it if you can.

Best: 2020 – 2028

Austin Hope: Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

100% Cabernet Sauvignon - Paso Robles - Wine Enthusiast: 96 & Editor's Choice

The follow-up to Austin Hope's inaugural smash hit is as much a stunner as the 2015 vintage. Having spent 18 months in 75% new, French oak, this Cab means business. It's dark, lavish and silky, yet with firm tannic structure and lively acidity. A Cab this quality would easily cost three times the price in Napa. Perfect with a good steak – or any other goodness from the grill.

Best: 2022-2030

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Herman Story: First Time Caller 2017

100% Petite Sirah - Paso Robles Highlands - 273 cases - Vivino: 4.3, CellarTracker: 93

Guided by Russell's mantra "don't pick it till you've finished your Christmas shopping" - and never to be outdone by Austin - this Petite Sirah saw 18 months in 80% new, French oak. It features a juicy acidity and high tannins, with a crazy long finish. It has all the markings of Russell From, so embrace and enjoy the ride. It's okay, you don't have to save this one for a decade.

Best: 2020-2027

Clos Solène: Harmonie 2015

**60% Grenache, 26% Mourvèdre and 14% Syrah - Willow Creek District, Paso Robles - 300 cases
Jeb Dunnock: 95, Robert Parker: 94, Wine Enthusiast: 94, Galloni: 93**

Elegance defined. This Grenache-focused blend is inspired by Guillaume's homeland's Chateauneuf-du-pape region. It was aged for 16 months in 400-liter barrels of neutral French oak with a tiny percentage of new oak for the Syrah. This wine is elegant and refined with fresh notes of bright red fruit and florality, elevated by dried herbs, juniper and pepper. If you must open it soon, let it breathe for a couple of hours before serving.

Best: 2022-2027

Torrin: Tsundere 2015

**34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Syrah, 19% Tannat, 14% Grenache - Paso Robles - 249 cases
Jeb Dunnock: 95, Galloni: 94**

Scott and Viquel Hawley are an incredibly nice, passionate, hardworking couple who paved the road to winemaking cult status after Scott switched university major to enology. Early on, Scott learned about and tasted the wine Justin Smith's dad (of Saxum) made in his garage, and from there - in 2000 - he decided to take the leap. Over the years he has worked for, mentored, has been mentored by, bought grapes from, sold grapes to, and consulted with nearly every great winemaker in the vicinity of his west-side place. Their first vintage in 2006 was a total of 283 cases, and with every vintage demand has outdone production. This Bordeaux-meets-Rhone features a smoky mineral topnote with fleshy blackberry. Excellent depth and a core of zesty acidity give way to lingering floral and allspice qualities. 22 months in French oak; unfinned and unfiltered.

Best: Now-2025