

COBB

Ross Cobb's 2018 Pinots are impressive. All of the wines are delineated and precise, but they are also a bit compact at this stage. That should not come as a surprise to readers who know the wines, as Cobb's Pinots typically need a few years in bottle to fully recover from bottling. All of the Pinots see 22 months in barrel (30% new), which is quite long by California standards. The 2018s don't quite reach the heights of the 2017s, but that was a truly magical vintage of the kind that does not come around too often. Readers who enjoy structured, vibrant Pinots will find so much to like in these new releases. The Pinots from Doc's Ranch, a property next to Cobb's own Coastlands, are especially of note.

From Sonoma Preview: 2021 Edition (Jan 2021) by Antonio Galloni

92_{pts}

2018 H. Klopp Vineyard Chardonnay
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2022 - 2028

The 2018 H. Klopp Chardonnay is a gorgeous Sonoma Coast Chardonnay. Bright and punchy, with tons of energy the 2018 bristles with so much nuance. Tangerine oil, mint, marzipan and white flowers all open over time. The 2018 nicely balances richer and more vibrant Chardonnay notes. In 2018 the Cobb Chardonnay is all Mount Eden Clone.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

94_{pts}

2018 Rice-Spivak Vineyard Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2023 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Rice-Spivak Vineyard is a bright, punchy wine. Today, it is brilliant, but also tightly wound. Bright red berry fruit, mint, spice, cedar and earthy notes are all laced together in a complex, multi-dimensional Pinot that has so much to offer. This is an especially minerally, savory style of Pinot that is going to need at least a few years to come around.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

93_{pts}

2018 Emmaline Ann Vineyard Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2023 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Emmaline-Ann Vineyard is bright and effusive, with striking aromatic presence to match its gracious, mid-weight personality. There is a feeling of transparency in the 2018 that is utterly beguiling. Crushed red berry, orange zest, white pepper and crushed rocks are all finely delineated. A healthy dollop of whole clusters (40%) adds a brilliant upper register.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

95_{pts}

2018 Monticue Vineyard Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2023 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Monticue Vineyard is fabulous. Rich and explosive, the 2018 is flat-out stunning. Ripe red berry fruit, blood orange, spice, mint and rose petals all race out of the glass. Unlike some of the other wines in the range, the Monticue has fabulous mid-palate sweetness and striking texture. It is a classic Sonoma Coast Pinot that achieves notable textural richness at moderate alcohols. The 90% whole clusters are impeccably balanced.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

94+_{pts}

2018 Wendling Vineyard Pinot Noir
Anderson Valley

Drinking window: 2024 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Wendling Vineyard is a powerful, dense wine that is going to need time to come into its own. The history of this site is recent, but Wendling Pinots are typically deep and richly textured. Cobb's 2018 is an unusually reticent Pinot that will need at least a few years in bottle to blossom. Inky red purplish berry fruit, blood orange, mint and spice open up over time, providing a glimpse at what is yet to come. And that is a lot.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

94+_{pts}

2018 Coastlands Vineyard Old Firs Block Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2024 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Coastlands Vineyard Old Firs Block is a powerful, incisive wine from vines first planted in 1989 with Martini and Wadensvil clones. A powerful, savory wine, the 2018 is going to need a number of years to soften. Dark cherry, tobacco, leather, cedar and spice add layers of nuance, but the 2018 is very much a wine for the cellar. The 60% whole cluster add quite a bit of aromatic complexity as the wine starts to open. Readers should be in no rush.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

95_{pts}

2018 Diane Cobb: Coastlands Vineyard Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2024 - 2038

The 2018 Ross Cobb's Pinot Noir Diane Cobb: Coastlands Vineyard is one of the most unique Pinots in all of the Sonoma Coast. It emerges from 1,65-acre parcel planted with a variety of heritage clones, 75% own-rooted, but picked together and co-fermented. Effusive in its aromatics, with striking presence. Time in the glass brings out exotic spice and citrus overtones. I can't wait to see how it ages.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

95_{pts}

2018 Doc's Ranch Vineyard Pommard Selection Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2023 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Doc's Ranch Vineyard Pommard is sensual, open-knit and so gracious. Bright red cherry fruit, orange peel, spice, mint and sweet pipe tobacco all meld together in a gorgeous, mid-weight Pinot that is so full of immediacy and allure. Readers will have a very hard time keeping their hands off this jewel of a wine. The 40% whole clusters are not all perceptible.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

95_{pts}

2018 Doc's Ranch Vineyard Pommard & 114 Selection
Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2024 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Doc's Ranch Vineyard Pommard 114 Selection is a bit darker and richer than the straight Pommard. Black cherry, spice, licorice and earthy notes infuse the 2018 with so much character. Broad and ample in feel, the 2018 marries finesse with power. It is another stellar Pinot in this range from Ross Cobb.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

96_{pts}

2018 Doc's Ranch Vineyard Calera Selection Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2024 - 2033

The 2018 Pinot Noir Doc's Ranch Vineyard Calera Selection is holding back a lot in reserve, but its beauty and pedigree are apparent. Deep and powerful, with huge structure, the 2018 is a decidedly imposing Pinot. All the elements are there for it to develop into a stellar wine. Actually, it already is. The 2018 is a Pinot of sublime elegance and finesse, but it won't show all of its cards for at least a few years.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021

96_{pts}

2018 Doc's Ranch Vineyard Swan & Calera Selection
Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast

Drinking window: 2024 - 2038

The 2018 Pinot Noir Doc's Ranch Vineyard Swan & Calera Selection is another fabulous wine in this range that brings together two heritage clones. Swan clone aromatics emerge from time to time, but the Calera tannins are a bit dominant at this stage. Here, too, readers will have to be very patient. There is a lot of wine here, for those who can wait.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2021