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Melville Winery

This is an impressive set of wines from Chad Melville. The 2020 Pinots are pretty rich, heady wines that capture the natural radiance of a year marked by pronounced heat spikes towards the end of the season. Even so, the wines retain their classic signatures. As always, there's a good bit of stem influence that gives the wines strong aromatic presence.

From *Santa Barbara: A Rare Bright Spot for California in 2020 (Aug 2022)* by Antonio Galloni

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2020 Pinot Noir Terraces

Color: Red

95

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2032 ^

Antonio Galloni, June 2022

The 2020 Pinot Noir Terraces is terrific. Dense and vibrant, the Terraces captures the intensity of the year and yet retains notable energy, probably a combination of water-retentive, clay-rich soils and a mix of five clones (Swan, Mt. Eden, 115, 667 and 777) that lends layers and complexity. Red cherry, pomegranate, blood orange and exotic floral notes build into the persistent finish.

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2020 Pinot Noir Block M

Color: Red

94

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2032 ^

Antonio Galloni, June 2022

The 2020 Pinot Noir Block M is a wild wine that very much reflects its site, perched atop a hill on the western side of the property where exposure to wind and sun, along with clay-rich soils, yields a distinctly virile, somber Pinot. Black cherry, bittersweet chocolate, licorice and cloves all come together. The 80% stems are perfectly judged. The 2020 is a big wine, but the balance works.

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2020 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills)

Color: Red

93

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2032 ^

Antonio Galloni, June 2022

The 2020 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills) is wild, pungent wine that shows the more savory, peppery side of Syrah. Dried herbs, lavender, sage and black pepper complement a core of blue/purplish fruit. A big, ample wine, the 2020 needs a few years in bottle or a long decant to help pull all the elements together.

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2020 Pinot Noir Anna's Block

Color: Red

93

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2032 ^

Antonio Galloni, June 2022

The 2020 Pinot Noir Anna's Block, a blend of 667 and 114 clones, is perfumed, deep and super-expressive. Dried herbs, tobacco, cedar, tobacco, mint and dried leaves all come together. Floral and savory top notes from the 60% whole clusters lend quite a bit of nuance throughout.

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2020 Pinot Noir Sandy's Block

Color: Red

92

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2034 ^

Antonio Galloni, June 2022

The 2020 Pinot Noir Sandy's Block is a huge, dense wine. Sandy's is never this dark or concentrated, but that is the vintage speaking. Black cherry, plum, mocha, incense and cloves flesh out in thee glass. The 50% whole clusters add quite a bit of savory nuance, but the Sandy's remains quite the powerhouse.

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