

Wine Enthusiast Magazine's Top 100 for 2008 was just released this week. Talley Vineyards 2005 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir was included in the top 100, selected as the #11 wine for the year.



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97 Talley 2005 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley); \$70. This is a great 2005 Pinot Noir, the best ever from Talley. The wine somehow combines huge ripe fruit with delicacy. It floods the mouth with profound currant, cherry pie, licorice, cola, raspberry, cocoa and vanilla flavors, yet feels light and silky, and is thoroughly dry. That's the magic of Pinot Noir. You can enjoy this small production wine now, and it should develop additional complexities for 10 years.

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Reviews for the 2006 wines are just starting to be published, and *Connoisseurs' Guide* gives Talley Vineyards wines high scores.



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95 Points, 3 Puffs – 2006 Talley 'Rincon Vineyard' Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley)

Just as Talley's Rincon Chardonnay is the bright star of its clan, so too does Rincon Vineyard set the pace among the winery's fine Pinot Noirs. Deep and downright juicy with a wealth of ripe and fully extracted black cherry fruit, the wine is at once both weighty and silky in feel. It is enriched with just the right measure of oaky sweetness, and its very long and very generous finish is unstinting in fruit. There is so much to like now that keeping will come hard, but it has more than enough of the right stuff for improvement and is a sure bet to only get better with age.

93 Points, 2 Puffs- 2006 Talley 'Stone Corral' Pinot Noir (Edna Valley)

There is a little more muscle and mass to this impressive young wine than the classic Pinot model might predict, but it is filled to the absolute brim with very deep and plentiful ripe cherry fruit and buffers its firm structure with stuffing to spare. Although early service with savory meat dishes will help smooth its way, it is a wine of impressive potential and will not hit its stride until five or more years have passed.

92 Points, 2 puffs – 2006 Talley 'Rincon Vineyard' Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley)

This deeply filled and highly extracted youngster impresses from the very first with its lush, fruit-laden aromas, and, with air, lots of sweet oak emerges as the perfect complement. Possessing all of the promised density and concentrated apple-like fruit on the palate, the wine is still tight and fairly firm, and, while very deep and undeniably stuffed, it presently only hints at the richness to come. This is the rare Chardonnay that requires aging, but there is no risk whatsoever that it will not unfold grandly with a few years in the bottle.

Steve Tanzer's *International Wine Cellar* published the following reviews of the 2006 Talley Vineyards wines:



90 Points – 2006 Talley Estate Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley)

Pale Yellow. Mineral-driven lemon and pear on the nose, with a suave note of blood orange adding interest. Precise citrus and orchard fruit flavors show very good concentration, with minerality gaining strength on the finish, which is broad, sappy and long. Admirably balanced chardonnay.

91 Points- 2006 Oliver's Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley)

Light, bright gold. Ripe passion fruit, melon and poached pear on the nose. Fresh, lightly sweet honeydew and orchard fruit flavors stain the palate, picking up a lightly smoky leanness with air. Finishes with refreshing citrus bite and impressive persistence. "Always the most tropical of our chardonnays", noted winemaker Leslie Mead.

92 Points- 2006 Talley 'Rincon Vineyard' Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley)

Hazy yellow color. Exotically perfumed bouquet of orange, pear, toasty lees, smoked meat and baking spices. Juicy tangerine and orchard fruit flavors are refreshingly pure and energetic, with a deeper, smokier lees quality gaining power with air. Finishes brisk and focused, with a lingering note of orange peel. This is already showing impressive complexity.

91+ Points -2006 Talley 'Rosemary's Vineyard' Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley)

Light, hazy gold. Sharply focused lemon and lime aromas are complicated by talc and quinine. Tightly wound and slow to unfold, eventually offering tangy lemon and orange flavors. A brisk, nervy wine that needs at least a year or two of patience.

90 Points – 2006 Talley Estate Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley)

Light bright red. Sharply focused and red berry and spice aromas are impressively pure and fresh. Taut, finely etched redcurrant and wild strawberry flavors are seamless and clean, with slow-mounting minerality contributing energy. Finishes with gentle sweetness and a jolt of dusty minerals. This will need a bit more time than Edna Valley bottling.

92 Points – 2006 Talley 'Rincon Vineyard' Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley)

Saturated red. Sexy, spicy bouquet of raspberry, blackberry, rose and smoky minerals. Racy and sharply focused, with a striking interplay of depth and vivacity, offering sweet red berry and mineral flavors and good mineral grip. A tangy note of blood orange lingers on the long, sappy finish.

91+ Points – 2006 Talley 'Rosemary's Vineyard' Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley)

Vivid red color. Deeper, brooding cherry and dark berry aromas are complicated by mocha and licorice. Chewy dark fruit flavors stain the palate and are framed by dusty tannins. Smooths out on the broad, sweet finish, with the dark berry note repeating.