

JEB DUNNUCK

I was blown away by these latest releases from Samra Morris, and I'd easily put these wines up with the crème de la crème in the Central Coast. In addition to smoking good Pinot Noirs and Chardonnay, don't miss her Rhône blends!

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Attente Red Wine

99 points

\$85

The 2021 Attente Red Wine (52/48 Grenache and Syrah aged 14 months in 60% new barrels) is deeper purple-hued, with a brilliant, powerful nose of smoked black and blue fruits, ground pepper, leather, spring flowers, and violets. Deep, full-bodied, and gorgeously concentrated, with ultra-fine yet building tannins, a great mid-palate, and flawless balance, this magical Rhône-like blend needs to be tasted to be believed. Unquestionably the finest wine I've tasted from this estate, it should be snatched up by readers. It will benefit from a year or three in the cellar and drink fabulously over the following 10-15 years.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Pinot Noir Barrel Select

98 points

\$90

Another sensational wine, the deep ruby-hued 2021 Pinot Noir Barrel Select gives up a brilliant perfume of ripe darker cherries, black raspberries, new leather, woodsmoke, and chalky minerality. It's rich and medium to full-bodied, with beautiful tannins and incredible length on the finish. It's gorgeous today yet will benefit from a year (or two) of bottle age and keep through 2031 at a minimum. This was completely destemmed and saw 10 months in 60% new French oak, hitting 14.6% natural alcohol with a pH of 3.58. Bravo!

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Pinot Noir Caracol

97 points

\$90

Another Sta. Rita Hills release, the 2021 Pinot Noir Caracol is similarly deeper ruby-hued, with terrific intensity in its red and black fruits, graphite, peppery herb, and iron-driven aromas and flavors. It's slightly more elegant and focused compared to the El Jabali and has enough tannins to benefit from a year or two of bottle age. Make no mistake, though – this is a rich, powerful Pinot as well as a stunning effort from winemaker Samra Morris.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Pinot Noir Radian Vineyard

96+ points

\$90

Spiced red and black raspberries, mulberries, spring flowers, crushed stone, and white pepper notes all emerge from the 2021 Pinot Noir Radian Vineyard, a deep, rich, structured wine with plenty of tannins, beautiful balance, and a great finish. It has incredible potential yet needs 2-3 years of bottle age. It will have 10-12 years of overall longevity. This was completely destemmed and raised in 50% new oak.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Pinot Noir El Jabali Vineyard

96 points

\$90

Moving to the reds and a wine that just about jumps out of the glass with its aromatics of spiced black cherries, black raspberries, new leather, and exotic baking spices, the 2021 Pinot Noir El Jabali Vineyard hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a rounded, layered mouthfeel, beautifully integrated acidity, and a great finish. It's a stunning Pinot Noir to drink over the coming 7-8 years, if not longer.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Syrah El Jabali Vineyard

95+ points

\$85

Deep purple-hued, the 2021 Syrah El Jabali Vineyard (100% Syrah) offers up a ripe, yet still cool climate-like nose of beautiful blue fruits, ground black pepper, leather, spring flowers, and hints of smoked game. Tight, focused, medium to full-bodied, and structured, it has remarkable purity as well as length. Give bottles 2-3 years in the cellar and enjoy over the following decade.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Grenache El Jabali Vineyard

94 points

\$85

Incorporating 8% Syrah, the 2021 Grenache El Jabali Vineyard comes from a site in the Sta. Rita Hills and was 80% destemmed and brought up in 50% new and 50% neutral French oak. Ripe, exotic notes of black raspberries, blueberries, peppery herbs, violets, and iron emerge on the nose, and the wine is medium to full-bodied, with a beautifully layered, concentrated mouthfeel, building tannins, and a great finish. This stunning Grenache will benefit from a year in bottle and shine through 2031.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard

94 points

\$82

Classic Sta. Rita Hills notes of sour cherries, iodine, leafy herbs, and spring flowers emerge from the 2021 Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard, a medium-bodied, silky, elegant 2021. I love its complexity, and it has fine tannins, a focused, streamlined mouthfeel, and a great finish. This comes from a valley floor site on the southern side of the appellation, was 80% destemmed, and saw 10 months in 40% new French oak. It's perfect for drinking over the coming 6-7 years or so.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Chardonnay El Jabali Vineyard

94 points

\$60

The 2021 Chardonnay El Jabali Vineyard is terrific, with a richer style in its ripe orchard fruits, chalky minerals, and honeyed flower-like aromas and flavors. With medium to full-bodied richness, a vibrant, layered mouthfeel, and nicely integrated oak, it's beautifully done and perfect for drinking over the coming 4-6 years.

2021 Alma Rosa Winery Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina

93 points

\$82

Lots of iron, baking spices, leather, and savory red and black fruits emerge from the 2021 Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina, another pretty, elegant, juicy release from this estate. Possessing bright acidity, nicely integrated tannins, and medium-bodied richness and depth, it will evolve for 7-8 years. As with most of Samara's reds, it saw a touch of stems and 10 months in 50% new barrels.