



2013 ALBATROSS RIDGE CUVÉE VIVIENNE PINOT NOIR

Edible Monterey Bay/WineOhTV

“Albatross Ridge: Wines That Soar”

“Albatross Ridge vineyard, replete with limestone and shale and reminiscent of Burgundy, keeps some pretty toney company. Located at the top of Laureles Grade, at the southwestern edge of Carmel Valley, it neighbors the vaunted Diamond T Vineyard owned by Robb Talbott...The diatomaceous soils and cool maritime winds are ideal for growing truly Burgundian style Chardonnay...Pinot finds a natural home here as well, yielding boundlessly energetic aromatics that tend towards red, not black....Hawley would be proud of the free-flying wines his great grandson is making, proving once more the incredible endurance and power of the albatross.”

2013 Albatross Ridge Cuvée Vivienne Pinot Noir

“Made from all eight blocks of Pinot and named for Garrett’s daughter, Vivienne, this beautiful wine is a redhead through and through, from first whiff to last sip. Its perfumey flower-laden nose delivers hints of pepper, fern and chamomile, but is dominated by its alluring scent of fresh-baked strawberry rhubarb pie. One racy sip and lovers of Pinots redolent of earthy rhubarb compote, strawberry jam and red raspberries will rejoice.

This one is an angelic choir of tingling acidity.” 93 Points

-Laura Ness, January 2016

Wine Review Online

“A fine Pinot Noir from a relatively new producer that features vibrant cherry, strawberry, rhubarb, fennel, mild damp earth, bright fall spice and clove, adding a subtle char note with airing. There's solid delivery of the nose elements, with bright acidity, a silky feel and a long finish that is already well integrated. If you're a fan of rhubarb in your Pinot, look no further.” **91 Points**

-Rich Cook, December, 2015

The Tasting Panel

“Bright cherry nose; silky, dense and juicy with ripe black cherry and fresh acidity; tangy and long, with good depth.” **90 Points: Outstanding**

-Anthony Dias Blue, February 2016

The Detroit News

“Your Monday wine: Albatross Ridge Cuvée Vivienne Pinot Noir”

“I am excited about the Pinots from Albatross Ridge — their color, texture and flavors are reminiscent of Burgundy. Alcohol and fruit are restrained. Oak is integrated. This Cuvée Vivienne is right on target with flavors of cherry, pomegranate, plum and cola. It is so well hewn. It’s whole-cluster pressed, barrel fermented on full natural yeast and aged 11 months in French oak. Cuvée Vivienne is named after Garrett Bowlus’ daughter. It’s a blend of eight distinct Pinot Noir blocks.”

-Sandra Silfven, January 2016

Wine Review Online

“A deceptively light Pinot Noir that reveals its tart red fruit intricacy gradually as you taste it.”

-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, January 2016

2012 ALBATROSS RIDGE CUVÉE VIVIENNE PINOT NOIR

Grapelive.com

“Wine of the Day”

“One of the most exciting wines in Monterey, and especially in Carmel Valley, has to be the Albatross Ridge Pinot Noir(s) made by Garrett Bowlus, these beautifully crafted wines are the highlights of an extensive Carmel Valley tasting and were without a doubt **the best Pinot Noir** I’ve ever tried from the Valley.

The Albatross Ridge estate sits high up, not far from Talbott’s Diamond-T, across the valley from Garland Park with southeast exposure and set on chalky, ancient seabed, soils, this is a steep site and very cool, perfect for Burgundy style Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

The Pinot Cuvée Vivienne 2012 is **a magnificent effort**, it is richly detailed with gorgeous fruit and mouth feel with great acidity, focus and vigor, but with refined tannins and elegance throughout. The winemaking is impressive with deft touch and finesse, the 2012 Cuvée Vivienne saw about 30% new French oak, 100% native yeast fermentation and is unfiltered and unfiltered, all of which preserves the purity and sense of terroir.

The 2012 Vivienne starts with spice, floral tones and earthy notes, it is medium dark ruby in hue with a palate of black cherry, tart plum and wild strawberry fruits, chalky stones, mineral and a fine creamy texture along with subtle fennel, briar and cedar. **This is exciting Pinot** and drinks with flourish and style, I loved the play of fruit, savory elements and vibrancy that keeps your attention from start to finish, look for further gains with bottle age and drink between 2016 and 2020. I tasted through the current lineup of Bowlus’ Albatross Ridge, all of which merit mention...but the wine that really stood out for quality and price was this fabulous 2012 Cuvée Vivienne, named after Garrett’s young daughter. Pinot Noir looks set to be the go-to grape for Carmel Valley, particularly in the cooler areas, my favorite wines are led by Albatross Ridge.” **93 Points**

-Kerry Winslow, September 2015