

# ● Antonio Galloni VINOUS

## **Arnot-Roberts**

*From 2022 Sonoma Report (January 2024) by Antonio Galloni*

Duncan Arnot Meyers and Nathan Roberts navigated the ups and downs of the year with notable success. “Two thousand twenty-two was a perfect year, until the heat arrived,” Roberts commented wryly. There are plenty of highlights in this range. The Pinots are especially fine, while the Syrahs aren’t too far behind. I was also quite taken with the Haynes Chardonnay (in its last vintage here) and the Ribolla, two whites that did especially well in a vintage where the whites are inconsistent.

## **2022 Syrah Que Syrah Vineyard**

The 2022 Syrah Que Syrah Vineyard is fabulous and also a fine follow-up to the 2021, especially considering the challenges of the year. Inky dark blue/purplish fruit, lavender, spice, menthol and licorice fill out the layers. The 2022 is perhaps not quite as deep or explosive as the 2021, but it is pretty close. The Que Syrah remains one of the most distinctive Syrahs in California.

**97 points** Drinking Window: 2025 – 2037, tasted January 2024.

## **2022 Syrah Clary Ranch**

The 2022 Syrah Clary Ranch is a wine of total precision and class. In 2022, it is also especially linear, more floral and savory, with fine balance and tons of persistence. Crushed flowers, mint, kirsch and orange peel all race across the palate. I especially admire the precision here.

**95 points** Drinking Window: 2025 – 2037, tasted January 2024.

### **2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Fellom Ranch**

The 2021 Fellom Ranch is a rich, demonstrative wine. Sage, lavender, bay leaf, black cherry and dried herbs abound. Firm, substantial tannins will need time to settle down. Tiny juice yields and thick skins produced an especially potent, old-school Cabernet. Readers will have to be patient. There's real density and substance here. **95 points** Drinking Window: 2026 – 2041, tasted January 2024.

### **2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Clajeux Vineyard**

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Clajeux Vineyard is laced with dark red cherry, spice, mint, white pepper, chalk, pomegranate and kirsch. In 2021, the Clajeux is a bit forward, but its open-knit personality will provide plenty of near- and medium-term pleasure. Today, the 2021 comes across as quite densely packed. There is almost certainly more to this than it is showing today. I especially admire its persistence and character.

**94 points** Drinking Window: 2026 – 2036, tasted January 2024.

### **2022 Red Wine California**

The 2022 Red Wine California is a very pleasant, fruity wine, especially in this vintage. About 50% of the wine was aged in cement. That, along with early bottling, preserves forward fruit and a good bit of freshness. Sweet floral and spice notes lift the mid-palate and finish.

**92 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2032, tasted January 2024.

### **2022 Ribolla Gialla Bengier Vineyard**

The 2022 Ribolla Bengier Vineyard is another superb wine in this range. Intensely floral and nuanced, the 2022 is a standout. All the varietal signatures come through loud and clear. This is the white wine in this lineup that is the least marked by the vintage. Sourced from the former Vare vineyard, the Ribolla is a stand-out. Longtime readers know how I feel about vineyards changing name with vineyard ownership—it's basically throwing money away.

**94 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2030, tasted January 2024.

### **2022 Sauvignon Blanc Randle Hill Vineyard**

The 2022 Sauvignon Blanc Randle Hill Vineyard emerges from old vines planted at about 1,000 feet in elevation in the Yorkville Highlands. This is an especially mineral, savory Sauvignon Blanc, with less true varietal character. It's a wine to enjoy for its crisp, steely character.

**91 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2028, tasted January 2024.

### **2022 Chardonnay Watson Ranch**

The 2022 Chardonnay Watson Ranch shows lovely textural depth and resonance. Dried pear, spice, menthol, dried flowers and herbs fill out the layers nicely. The balance here is sublime. This is an especially savory, earthy Chardonnay, with fruit pushed into the background. The 2022 is all class.

**92 points** Drinking Window: 2024 - 2029, tasted January 2024.

### **2022 Chardonnay Trout Gulch Vineyard**

The 2022 Chardonnay Trout Gulch Vineyard is a stellar wine. Even in 2022, all the personality of this site comes through. Crushed rocks, mint, white flowers, white pepper and lemon peel are some of the many notes that grace this exquisite, vibrant Chardonnay. This is a fine effort. As always, the Trout Gulch is steely and vibrant.

**93 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2029, tasted January 2024.

### **2022 Chardonnay Sanford & Benedict**

The 2022 Chardonnay Sanford & Benedict is beautifully textured, with pretty, exotic notes that add character. All the resonance of Sanford & Benedict comes through loud and clear. The 2022 is generous and inviting, with fine balance and class.

**92 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2029, tasted January 2024.

### **2022 Chardonnay Haynes Vineyard**

The 2022 Chardonnay Haynes Vineyard is fabulous. Sadly, it is the last vintage for this wine at Arnot-Roberts following the property's acquisition by the Lawrence family. All the classic Haynes signatures come through. Dried pear, spice, chamomile and dried flowers all build effortlessly. This is beautifully done.

**94 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2030, tasted January 2024.

## **2022 Trousseau**

The 2022 Trousseau is a very pretty wine. This is a blend of fruit from Luchsinger and Las Cimas. Orange peel, amaro herbs, mint, spice, rosewater and white pepper lend notable aromatic and flavor intensity. What an absolute delight!

**92 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2030, tasted January 2024.

## **2022 Pinot Noir Peter Martin Ray Vineyard**

The 2022 Pinot Noir Peter Martin Ray Vineyard is a pretty rich wine for Duncan Arnot and Nathan Roberts. Dense, dark red fruit, spice, pomegranate and blood orange are beautifully amplified. The 100% stem inclusion is barely perceptible. Balance was so hard to achieve in 2022, but this definitely has it. Time in the glass brings out the natural savoriness and minerality of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

**96 points** Drinking Window: 2025 – 2037, tasted January 2024.

## **2022 Pinot Noir Fox Creek Vineyard**

The 2022 Pinot Noir Fox Creek Vineyard emerges from a site in Carmel Valley planted on granite and clay. Intensely mineral and bright, the 2022 possesses terrific energy and tons of verve. Chalk, mint, white pepper, orange peel and bright, red-toned fruit all build in the glass. This sculpted, chiseled Pinot is compelling.

**95 points** Drinking Window: 2025 – 2037, tasted January 2024.

## **2022 Pinot Noir Heaven and Earth Vineyard**

The 2022 Pinot Noir Heaven and Earth Vineyard is superb. Dark, rich and ample, the 2022 possesses notable stature. Plum, black cherry, menthol, licorice and dark spices are all dialed up. Here, too, the 100% whole clusters are pretty much buried by the sheer intensity of the site. What a wine!

**97 points** Drinking Window: 2025 – 2037, tasted January 2024.

## **2022 Syrah California**

The 2022 Syrah (California) is bold, rich and explosive. As is so often the case, the Syrah is flat-out gorgeous. In this vintage, the Arnot-Roberts Syrah used the broader California appellation. All the elements are so well balanced. Juicy dark cherry, plum, sage, menthol, new leather and lavender build into the dense, textured finish.

**92 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2032, tasted January 2024.

## **2022 Cabernet Franc Watson Ranch**

The 2022 Cabernet Franc Watson Ranch is a wild, exotic wine that marries Loire-like pepperiness with a good dose of California sunshine, showing off notes of white pepper, sage, mint and blood orange. The 2022 is a super-distinctive wine, but one that requires an inquisitive palate to appreciate its charms. It's a gorgeous wine in every way.

**93 points** Drinking Window: 2024 – 2032, tasted January 2024.