

● Antonio Galloni VINOUS

Arnot-Roberts

From 2022 & 2023 Sonoma Report (January 2025) by Antonio Galloni

These new and upcoming releases from Duncan Arnot and Nathan Roberts are very illuminating with regard to variety, site and vintage. Arnot and Roberts work with cool-climate sites, some of which were very challenged by the cold conditions of the growing season. There is no way of getting around what Mother Nature was not ready to provide in 2023. A hands-off, minimalist style in the cellar further amplifies the attributes of a growing season in which fruit struggled to ripen in some sites. Where conditions allowed, Arnot and Roberts turned out some gorgeous wines. The 2023 Red Wine California is a fine example. A mid-tier wine in the lineup, the 2023 overdelivers for its relatively modest price. Readers will find some outstanding wines in this range. Others are decidedly more challenging, not because of a lack of diligence or intent, but because the growing season imposed a very low ceiling on what was possible in some sites.

[*From Sonoma and Neighbors 2022 & 2023: Opposites Attract \(Jan 2025\) by Antonio Galloni*](#)

2023 Sauvignon Blanc Ascona Vineyard

Release Price: \$45

Color: White

94

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2030
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Sauvignon Blanc Ascona Vineyard is powerful, deep and super-expressive. A wine of phenolic intensity and serious complexity, the Ascona is wonderfully distinctive. Dried citrus peel, sage, mint, dried flowers and chamomile are some of the many notes that build in this Santa Cruz Mountains Sauvignon Blanc.

2023 Sauvignon Blanc Randle Hill Vineyard

Release Price: \$35

Color: White

94

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2030

Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Sauvignon Blanc Randle Hill Vineyard shows a more floral side of Sauvignon Blanc. This site at elevation yielded a gorgeous, wonderfully nuanced Sauvignon Blanc that is long on character. This is very much a wine of place.

2023 Ribolla Bengier Vineyard

Release Price: \$45

Color: White

92

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2029

Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Ribolla Bengier Vineyard is a pretty powerful wine. Today, the tannins are especially prominent. Dried orchard fruit, mint, spice and white pepper are all beautifully delineated. I would give this a few years in barrel as it is quite reticent today. Varietal character feels a bit hushed in 2023, but this is still quite attractive.

2023 Chardonnay Watson Ranch

Release Price: \$40

Color: White

93

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2031

Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Chardonnay Watson Ranch is a classy, elegant wine. The cool, late-ripening vintage yielded an especially savory, earthy Chardonnay with fruit pushed more into the background. Dried pear, sage, mint, chamomile and bracing mineral notes build in the glass. Silky contours wrap it all together.

2023 Chardonnay Sanford & Benedict Vineyard

Release Price: \$60

Color: White

91

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2030

The 2023 Chardonnay Sanford & Benedict Vineyard is another very classy, polished wine from Arnot-Roberts.. At the same time, at 12% alcohol, this is a wine that is more about house style, as there is basically very little expression of place. Jasmine, orchard fruit, mint and white pepper linger. The Arnot-Roberts S&B emerges from the oldest vines on this legendary site. For me, Chardonnays from Sanford & Benedict need to have more creaminess.

2023 Chardonnay Trout Gulch Vineyard

Release Price: \$60

Color: White

93

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2031
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Chardonnay Trout Gulch Vineyard is quite an exotic wine. The long growing season yielded an unusually exuberant Chardonnay with notable oiliness but fewer of the intensely saline notes that are often such a signature here. Apricot, chamomile, dried flowers, slate and white pepper give the Trout Gulch its effusive, complex personality.

2023 Gamay Noir

Release Price: \$25

Color: Red

90

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2031
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Gamay Noir is a blend from Witters and Barsotti, grown on granitic soils and done with a brief carbonic maceration. Sweet dried cherry, sweet pipe tobacco and cedar are all beautifully lifted. In 2023, the Gamay Noir is a bit light, but it's a charmer. This is an especially earthy/savory style.

2023 Trousseau

Release Price: \$35

Color: Red

92

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2031
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Trousseau is bold and effusive from start to finish. Soaring floral and savory aromatics make a strong opening statement. Dried flowers, alpine herbs, mint, rose petal and wild cherry open with a bit of coaxing. A wine of complexity and dynamic energy, the Trousseau is terrific in 2023. This is such a gorgeous wine.

2023 Pinot Noir Fox Creek Vineyard

Release Price: \$60

Color: Red

94

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2035
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Pinot Noir Fox Creek Vineyard is a bold, potent wine. Macerated cherry, spice, orange peel, sage, cedar, new leather and earthy notes fill out the layers. This sturdy yet mid-weight Pinot has a ton of character, even if the tannins are a bit burly.

2023 Pinot Noir Peter Martin Ray Vineyard

Release Price: \$80

Color: Red

93

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2035
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Pinot Noir Peter Martin Ray Vineyard is delicate, silky and understated. Floral-inflected red-toned fruit, orange peel, cinnamon and spice are some of the many notes that emerge from the glass. The 2023 is very pretty and nuanced. The 100% stems are impeccably balanced.

2023 Pinot Noir Heaven and Earth Vineyard

Release Price: \$60

Color: Red

94

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2035
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Pinot Noir Heaven and Earth Vineyard really plays into a larger-scaled style for Arnot-Roberts. Dark-toned fruit, leather, licorice, grilled herbs, menthol, pine and tobacco are nicely dialed up. Broad and ample in feel, with notable persistence, the 2023 is terrific.

2023 California Red Wine

Release Price: \$45

Color: Red

94

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2037
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 California Red Wine is terrific. Dark, bold and savory, it has so much to offer. Black cherry, plum, dried herbs, licorice, menthol, gravel and bay leaf are dialed up. This feels like a very old-school red blend. At \$50 a bottle, it is one of the best values in this range, and certainly the under-the-radar gem. I loved it.

2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Montecillo Vineyard

Release Price: \$125

Color: Red

87

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2030
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Montecillo Vineyard is a very hard wine to taste today. Lean and compact, the Montecillo reflects a decision to pick early. That's a tough call, as the alternative was to lose the entire crop. Red fruit, iron, cedar and white pepper struggle to open in the glass. I look forward to tasting this in another few years' time. Today, the 2022 is vegetal and lacking in site character.

2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Clajeux Vineyard

Release Price: \$125

Color: Red

93

Drinking Window: 2027 - 2042
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Clajeux Vineyard is so appealing. Medium in body and perfumed, the 2022 is aromatically expressive and nicely layered. Blue/purplish fruit, spice, lavender, mocha and gravel all build in the glass. The Clajeux is a bit lighter than most years, but the signatures are there. This is very nicely done.

2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Fellom Ranch

Release Price: \$125

Color: Red

94

Drinking Window: 2027 - 2042
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Fellom Ranch is the most complete of the three Arnot-Roberts Cabernets. It shows the ripeness of the year in its extroverted personality. Black fruit, leather, licorice, chocolate, bay leaf and spice saturate the palate. There is an exotic quality here that is palpable. Savory notes are buried, but in exchange, this will drink well with minimal cellaring.

2023 Syrah (Sonoma Coast)

Release Price: \$40
Color: Red

92

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2031
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Syrah (Sonoma Coast) is outrageously beautiful. Inky blue/purplish fruit, lavender, sage and gravel rush across the palate. Dense, savory and super-expressive, the 2023 has so much to offer. At \$40 a bottle, it is a superb value. The riper style works quite well here.

2023 Syrah Que Syrah Vineyard

Release Price: \$80
Color: Red

94

Drinking Window: 2026 - 2035
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Syrah Que Syrah Vineyard is fabulous. Inky red fruit, blood orange, sage, mint and white pepper all race out of the glass. This bold cool-climate Syrah exudes personality. White pepper, mint, chalk, dried flowers and exotic spice tones lend character. The 2023 is a bit lean, but it has just enough mid-palate density to pull it all together.

2023 Syrah Clary Ranch

Release Price: \$65
Color: Red

88

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2030
Antonio Galloni, January 2025

The 2023 Syrah Clary Ranch is an especially wild, animalistic Syrah. Black pepper, game, incense, licorice and iron are some of the nuances that unfold with air. At 11% in alcohol, the 2023 is lacking in mid-palate density, and yet it is a very distinctive wine in its own way.