

This is a terrific set of wines from Duncan Arnot and Nathan Roberts. I find the 2024 reds especially of note. The warmer vintage clearly presented more favorable conditions than 2023 in colder sites, as evidenced by the strength of the Syrahs. The same holds true of many of the other wines; an extra kick of fruit and mid-palate texture is so appealing. Cabernet Sauvignons, all from the superb 2023 vintage, show the aromatic intensity, depth and pedigree of a year that provided exceptionally long hang time. I am less convinced by the 2024 whites, most of which are too lean and austere for my palate. I am sure some readers will appreciate them, but I don't see the wines as having the requisites to develop positively in bottle. They may hold on for some years, but that is not the same as blossoming into something meaningfully more complex over time.

From Going to California: Sonoma's 2024s & 2023s (Jan 2026) by Antonio Galloni

2024 Chardonnay, Watson Ranch

Release Price: \$40

92

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2034
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Chardonnay Watson Ranch is brisk and chiseled to the core. Orchard fruit, chamomile, spice, dried pear and almond are finely cut. This tightly wound Chardonnay needs a bit of time to soften. I find it painfully austere in the early going. Perhaps time will help this flesh out a bit further.

2024 Chardonnay, Trout Gulch Vineyard

Release Price: \$60

93

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2034
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Chardonnay Trout Gulch Vineyard is a terrific wine off this Santa Cruz Mountains site planted at 600 feet in elevation. Lemon peel, chalk, slate, mint and dried herbs race across the palate. The 2024 is nervy and very bright, as wines from this site tend to be, but there is more than enough textural depth in the background waiting to emerge.

2024 Chardonnay, Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, 1971 Block

Release Price: \$60

92

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2034
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Chardonnay Sanford & Benedict Vineyard is very fine. Creamy yet vibrant, with lovely textural depth, the S&B Chardonnay has a lot to offer. Orchard fruit, white flowers, slate, chalk, mint and sage gain intensity through the tense, salivating finish. This builds nicely on the back end. The Arnot-Roberts S&B Chardonnay emerges from the most historic part of the site, in a section that was planted with own-rooted vines in 1971. This is an attractive wine, but I would prefer to see a bit more textural depth and site character.

2024 Ribolla Gialla, Bengier Vineyard

Release Price: \$45

93

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2034
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Ribolla Bengier Vineyard is powerful, dense and tightly wound. Even at a modest 12% in alcohol, the Ribolla still shows the phenolic intensity that is such a varietal signature. Dried orchard fruit, ginger, cinnamon and chamomile build nicely with a bit of time in the glass as the layers flesh out.

2024 Sauvignon Blanc, Ascona Vineyard

Release Price: \$45

92

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2034
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Sauvignon Blanc Ascona Vineyard is a potent, tightly wound wine. Lemon peel, chalk, mint, slate, dried herbs and sage are all finely cut in this chiseled, nervy Sauvignon Blanc. Brisk saline top notes frame the persistent, salivating finish. The 2024 was fermented in stainless steel and aged in neutral wood. It is very nicely done.

2024 Sauvignon Blanc, Randle Hill Vineyard

Release Price: \$35

94

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2034
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Sauvignon Blanc Randle Hill Vineyard emerges from a site at 1,100 feet in elevation that was planted in 1982. Wild and dynamic, with tons of complexity, the 2024 has so much to offer. Lemon confit, dried flowers, mint, chalk and sage play off one another in this expressive, resonant Sauvignon Blanc.

2024 Trousseau, North Coast

Release Price: \$35

92

Drinking Window: 2026 - 2032
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Trousseau is a very pretty wine. Sweet crushed red cherry fruit, cedar, mint, pipe tobacco and orange peel waft from the glass. Medium in body but also quite deep, the Trousseau is a gorgeous Arnot-Roberts wine. The 100% stems add aromatic lift. In 2024, the blend is 75% Luchsinger (the historical site for this wine) and 25% Las Cimas fruit.

2024 Gamay Noir, El Dorado

Release Price: \$25

93

Drinking Window: 2026 - 2032
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Gamay Noir El Dorado is terrific. It offers a bit more mid-palate richness than some previous years, which actually works quite well here. Crushed flowers, vibrant red-toned fruit, cedar, tobacco and mint linger. This is one of my favorite recent vintages of the Gamay. Vineyard sites are Barsotti (75%) and Witters (25%).

2024 Pinot Noir, Fox Creek Vineyard

Release Price: \$60

95

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2039
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Pinot Noir Fox Creek Vineyard is a seriously beautiful wine. It emerges from a site in Carmel Valley planted on granitic soils at 1,100 feet in elevation. Dark, layered and resonant, the Fox Creek Pinot is superb. There's gorgeous depth and textural resonance here. Wild cherry, iron, tobacco, menthol, licorice and rose petal build effortlessly through the mid-palate and into the finish. The 100% stems are beautifully woven into the wine's fabric. Superb.

2024 Pinot Noir, Heaven & Earth Vineyard

Release Price: \$60

95

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2039
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Pinot Noir Heaven and Earth Vineyard is another gorgeous wine from Arnot-Roberts. Deep floral and spice inflections meld into a core of macerated red cherry fruit, kirsch, blood orange and new leather. This is a bit extroverted for Arnot-Roberts, but it all works so well. Here too, the 100% stems add layers of nuance without dominating the wine's balance.

2024 Pinot Noir, Peter Martin Ray Vineyard

Release Price: \$75

94

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2039
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Pinot Noir Peter Martin Ray Vineyard is the most delicate of the three Arnot-Roberts Pinots. Haunting aromatics open first. Soft, beautifully perfumed and sensual, with impeccable balance, the Peter Martin Ray is so expressive. Silky tannins shape the polished mid-palate and a finish sprinkled with savory overtones from the 100% stems. What a total delight.

2024 Cabernet Franc, Watson Ranch

Release Price: \$40

91

Drinking Window: 2026 - 2036
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Cabernet Franc Watson Ranch is a very pretty, intensely aromatic wine. This cold, late-ripening site yields an especially fragrant Franc. It's a style that is pushed to the limit in terms of its slightly vegetal quality, but the wine has just enough balance to pull it all together. Dark-toned fruit, lavender, licorice and rose petal linger. I would like to see if this can be picked riper than 11.5% alcohol.

2024 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County

Release Price: \$45

93

Drinking Window: 2026 - 2034
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

A new wine in this range, the 2024 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County) is a blend of Bedrock and Lichau Hill. Bold and punchy, the 2024 is super expressive right out of the gate. Savory and brambly notes are classic Sonoma. This mid-weight, refined Cabernet Sauvignon is lights-out. The Sonoma County Cabernet takes the place of the California Red Wine in the range.

2023 Cabernet Sauvignon, Clajeux Vineyard

Release Price: \$125

96

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2043
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Clajeux Vineyard is a gorgeous, soaring beauty. Crushed flowers, mint, red/purplish fruit, pomegranate and lavender are all finely sculpted. All the elements are so well balanced. This is one of the finest vintages of the Arnot-Roberts Clajeux that I can remember tasting. A reference point for Chalk Hill.

2023 Cabernet Sauvignon, Montecillo Vineyard

Release Price: \$125

97

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2043
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Montecillo Vineyard is a fabulous wine from this historic Moon Mountain vineyard. Deep, dark and expansive, the 2023 wraps around the palate with copious dark-toned fruit, gravel, licorice, espresso, menthol and lavender. A wine of exquisite finesse and nuance, the Montecillo is seriously impressive and delicious. This is outrageously great.

2023 Cabernet Sauvignon, Fellom Ranch

Release Price: \$125

96

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2043
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Fellom Ranch is a very pretty, exotic wine. Crushed flowers, mint, red-toned fruit, blood orange and spice overtones grace this sculpted, old-school Santa Cruz Mountains wine. Readers will find a Cabernet Sauvignon that is all about understatement and class. This builds beautifully with a bit of time in the glass.

2024 Syrah, Sonoma Coast

Release Price: \$40

93

Drinking Window: 2027 - 2036
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Syrah (Sonoma Coast) is a total bomb. Inky dark fruit, lavender, black pepper, menthol and licorice literally jump from the glass. This racy, explosive Syrah delivers the goods, and then some. There's a bit more Clary Ranch in this year's blend, not a bad thing at all, in my view. Vineyard sites are Clary Ranch, Que Syrah, Baker Lane and Solas. This is gorgeous stuff.

2024 Syrah, Clary Ranch

Release Price: \$65

96

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2039
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Syrah Clary Ranch shows how critical vintage can be. Whereas the 2023 struggled to ripen, the 2024 had no such issues. Soaring savory, peppery and spice overtones are so alluring. Dark red fruit, iron, incense, white pepper and blood orange open with a bit of coaxing. Bright acids and brilliant floral top notes from the 100% stems explode on the sculpted finish. Readers will want to cellar this for a few years. It's a dazzling wine from Duncan Arnot and Nathan Roberts.

2024 Syrah, Que Syrah Vineyard

Release Price: \$80

98

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2039
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Syrah Que Syrah Vineyard takes its place among the very finest vintages ever made here. Inky, racy and deep, the 2024 impresses from start to finish. Inky dark fruit, coffee, lavender, mint and black pepper stain the palate. The 2024 doesn't quite have the mid-palate richness of the epic 2021, but it comes close. I find it incredibly elegant. The 2024 was done with 70% whole clusters, which add layers of savory dimension that really explode on the finish. Magical.

2024 Syrah, Baker Lane Vineyard

Release Price: \$50

95

Drinking Window: 2028 - 2039
Antonio Galloni, January 2026

The 2024 Syrah Baker Lane Estate is a tiny bottling of just two barrels. Dark and potent, with virile intensity, the 2024 possesses tremendous depth and sheer power. Black cherry, incense, tobacco, licorice and dried herbs build with time in the glass. Readers will have to be patient as the 2024 is very imposing at this stage.