

Located in Hollister, not far from Calera, Eden Rift is an exciting new project in the Cienega Valley. Winemaker Cory Waller, whose resumé includes stints with Tony Soter and Josh Bergström, has eked an excellent inaugural vintage from this interesting site, which benefits from calcareous soils rare in California that are especially propitious for the cultivation of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Waller assures me that the best is yet to come, but these debut releases are already well worth the attention of consumers looking for wines that are as elegant as they are characterful.



2016 ESTATE CHARDONNAY

92 pts

The 2016 Chardonnay Estate offers up aromas of lime cordial, vanilla pod and pastry cream that are marked but not dominated by a framing of new wood. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, delicately textural and racy, with good concentration, lovely natural balance and a flavorful finish. If this delicious Chardonnay's new oak component synergies with it more completely, it will score even higher.



2016 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

93 pts

The 2016 Estate Pinot Noir unfurls in the glass with a bouquet of wild plum, red cherry, dried flowers and smoky herbs that reveals lovely incipient complexity. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, silky and supple, with an expansive attack, excellent mid-palate depth, and a lingering, tangy finish. This really impresses for its textural seamlessness and stylistic maturity.

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