



## **2013 Chardonnay:**

**94** – “In contrast to the 2013 Unoaked, the 2013 Chardonnay Sun Chase Vineyards has a slightly richer style with a hint of hazelnut and brioche, medium to full body and comes across like a premier cru or possibly a grand cru from Puligny Montrachet. It has loads of minerality, good acidity and plenty of flesh and richness. This is impressive wine and should drink well for up to a decade.” Drink now through 2026– Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**93** – “Editor’s Choice” A heady mixture of lemon custard and baked pear marks the entry to this full-bodied, deliciously decadent wine, from a high-elevation site above the Petaluma Gap. Honeyed aromas maintain themselves in the glass, accented in floral honeysuckle and ginger. Lovely and generous, it softens as it goes – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**93** – “A rich, powerful effort, with intense peach, tropical fruit, citrus, smoky, toasty oak and a long, vibrant finish. Impressive extract imparts serious drive. Drink now through 2020.” – James Laube, [Wine Spectator](#)

**93** – “Lush, rich and deep with juicy acidity and lovely structure; long, intense and elegant with silky texture; long and classic.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**92** - "A more overt range of tropical-inflected notes emerge from the 2013 Chardonnay Sun Chase Vineyard. Mango, peach, butter, spice and French oak nuances are laced together in a deeply expressive, layered Chardonnay that impresses for its overall balance and sense of harmony." Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

**90** – “A white with lots of sliced apple, pear and vanilla cream aromas and flavors. Full body, yogurt and apple pie character. Fruity finish. The lemon aftertaste gives it complexity.” – James Suckling, [www.jamessuckling.com](#)

## **2014 Chardonnay:**

**94** – “This is another stunner from Pellet Estate, from a high-elevation vineyard within the proposed Petaluma Gap appellation, which is highly influenced by fog and wind. Wet stone notes and a crisp, lemony acidity suggest freshness, neither detracting from body or texture.” – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**93** – “Juicy and elegant, lush and balanced with ripe pear and tangy acidity; toasty oak notes and soft, silky texture; long and bright with depth and lots of charm.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**92** – “Pellet's 2014 Chardonnay Sun Chase Vineyard is laced with tropical fruit, orange blossom, mint, vanillin and buttery notes. Despite its richness, this barrel-fermented Chardonnay retains good brightness and freshness, not to mention impeccable overall balance.” – Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

**92** – “A white with lots of sliced apple, pear and vanilla cream aromas and flavors. Full body, yogurt and apple pie character. Fruity finish. The lemon aftertaste gives it complexity.” – James Suckling, [www.jamessuckling.com](#)

**91** – “The 2014 Chardonnay Sun Chase Vineyards shows a slightly more strawish light-gold color than the 2013. The wine has plenty of lemon oil, white peach and a touch of honeysuckle in a medium to full-bodied stylish and Burgundian style. This is impressive and should turn out to be close in quality to the 2013.” – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)



## **2015 Chardonnay:**

**95** – “In producing this wine aged 16 months in new French oak, winemaker Tom Rinaldi demonstrates his ability to keep things from tasting toasty as he brings forth savory aromas of oregano, spearmint, and lime-charged pears and pineapples. The crème brûlée effect glides in mid-palate as lemon curd and brush develop at the finish. 95.” – Anthony Dias Blue/Meridith May, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**92** - "The 2015 Chardonnay Sunchase Vineyard is scented of ripe apricots, guava and green mangoes with touches of honeyed toast and cashews. The palate is medium to full-bodied with lovely freshness lifting the intense tropical flavors, finishing with lingering savory notions." – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

## **2013 Un-Oaked Chardonnay:**

**92** - "Smooth and mellow with ripe fruit and juicy with intensity and depth; precise and lovely with seamless style and great finesse; you won't miss the oak." – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**91** - "Pellet's 2013 Chardonnay Sun Chase Vineyard Un-oaked is gorgeous. Orange peel, spice, mint and lightly honeyed notes meld together in a classy, understated wine long on class and personality. This is a terrific showing from Pellet and winemaker Robin Akhurst." Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

**90** - "Attractive notes of lemon blossom, tangerine oil and melon jump from the glass of the 2013 Chardonnay Sunchase Vineyard Un-oaked. With nice body, good purity and plenty of personality and character, it should drink well for 5-6 years. It proves that Chardonnay does not need oak to taste good. Pellet Estate's two cuvées of Chardonnay give consumers a choice between oaked and un-oaked versions. This vineyard is situated at a 900 to 1,400 foot elevation in the Petaluma Wind Gap, a cool-climate site." – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

## **2014 Un-Oaked Chardonnay:**

**96** – “This is an OMG wine for me, the best the Petaluma Gap has to offer. Grown in elevations from 900 to 1,400 feet, it is intensely voluptuous from nose to palate. Lemon sugar cookies and fresh pineapple and peaches are juiced to order. Towards the middle, the vanilla–white tea comes in, with a white floral finish that dazzles.” – Meridith May, [The Tasting Panel Magazine](#)

**93** – “From a beautiful site overlooking the Petaluma Gap, this wine opens in pretty honeysuckle aromas before unfurling clean, focused flavors of green-apple slices, lemon meringue and a touch of anise. Bright acidity is left to shine without the intrusion of oak, and yet the texture doesn't suffer, offering plenty of velvety smoothness.” – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**92** – “The 2014 Un-Oaked Chardonnay Sun Chase Vineyard is bold and intense to the core, with tremendous depth and overall structure. Striking and distinctive, the 2014 favors the more citrus driven and savory side of Chardonnay, although there is plenty of depth and overall intensity in the glass.” – Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)



**92** – “A bright and fresh chardonnay with sliced apple, pineapple and peach aromas and flavors. Medium to full body, bright acidity and a clean and fruity finish. The crispness and precision makes this. Drink now. Screw cap.” – James Suckling, [www.jamessuckling.com](http://www.jamessuckling.com)

**91** – “The 2014 Chardonnay Unoaked Sun Chase Vineyards is a beautiful wine with a light-straw color, crushed-rock minerality, notes of citrus blossom, honeysuckle and orange marmalade. The acidity is great, the purity is terrific, the wine medium to full-bodied and totally delicious. Drink it over the next several years.” – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

## **2015 Un-Oaked Chardonnay:**

**93** – “From a vineyard that has since been designated as part of the new Petaluma Gap appellation, this wine shows the fog and wind influence of that gap, with a lush creamy center of full-figured mango, apple and vanilla that finds its way to bright supportive acidity and lingering oak spice.” – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

## **2010 Cabernet Sauvignon:**

**93** – “An inaugural release from veteran winemaker Nils Venge, this wine contains small amounts of Merlot and Petit Verdot. It's very dry, quite tannic and rich, with flavors of black cherries, currants and new oak, with an earthy note that adds to the complexity. The mouthfeel is warm and almost Port-like.” – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**90** - "The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard offers attractive charcoal and cassis flavors, a pleasant floral characteristic, medium to full body and impressive richness as well as depth. It should drink well for 7-10 years." – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

## **2012 Cabernet Sauvignon:**

**93** – “Cellar Selection” From a heritage site planted originally in 1859, this wine was made by Nils Venge and contains mostly Cabernet, with a small handful of Merlot and an even smaller pinch of Petit Verdot. Soft yet structured, it's layered in leathery dark-chocolate and black-fig tones, with juicy components of blackberry and cassis. It should age through 2022. – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**92** – “Deep, dark and juicy with firm structure and bright blackberry; rich, balanced and supple with spice and finesse.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**92** – “The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard is a delicious, racy Cabernet to drink now and over the next handful of years. Dark red cherry, plum, smoke, spices and sweet vanillin from the oak meld together in a forward, unctuous yet mid-weight wine that delivers the goods. The 2012 is a bit more restrained than the 2013 tasted alongside it.” – Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

**91** - "The beautiful 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard exhibits lots of blackberry and blueberry fruit, supple tannins, excellent purity and outstanding depth and texture. This is an elegant, medium-bodied wine that can be drunk now or cellared for 10-15 years." – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**90** - "Tight and structured, with a firm core of dark berry, sage, mineral and cedary oak, ending with gripping tannins and an aftertaste of loamy earth. Drink now through 2026." – James Laube, [Wine Spectator](#)



## **2013 Cabernet Sauvignon:**

**94** – “Editor’s Choice”. “This single-vineyard estate wine is made by Nils Venge and Tom Rinaldi, who have somehow managed to capture quiet elegance and powerful fruit at the same time. Red-fruit driven, it's round and rich, with moderate tannin and cassis, clove and black pepper highlights.” – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**94** – “Lush berry nose; silky texture and bright plum and black raspberry fruit; elegant, bright and smooth with core of fresh acidity; seamless and rich, long and balanced.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**92** – “The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard is dark, unctuous and racy from start to finish. Super-ripe blackberry, mocha, plum, new leather, cloves and sweet oak give the 2013 its flamboyant personality. This is a relatively approachable wine for the vintage that will drink well with minimal cellaring. The sweet, forward style will appeal most to readers who enjoy opulent Cabernets. Ripe, silky tannins wrap around the voluptuous finish.” – Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

**90+** – “The attractive 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard is from a relatively historic site, first planted in 1863. The wine has a dense ruby/purple color, plenty of blackberry and cassis fruit, a touch of oak and earth. It's medium to full-bodied, moderately tannic and would benefit from 4-5 years of cellaring. It should last 20 or more years.” – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**90** - "A powerful expression of extracted blackberry, dusty earth, cedary oak and crushed rock. Although the flavors are separate now they are well-proportioned. Should they come together at the right time, this could be special. Best from 2020 through 2030. 345 cases made.." – James Laube, [Wine Spectator](#)

## **2016 Un-Oaked Chardonnay:**

**95** – “From a site that’s been producing wine grapes for more than 150 years comes this stunning unoaked Chardonnay aged nine months in stainless steel and produced with extended lees stirring. The richness is there, as is depth and mineral-tinged complexity, while the nose picks up notes of pineapple and white flowers blooming out of the glass. Its lees-y vanilla-pudding body is sumptuous, and the acidity underscores it all with a crisp-melon and Asian-pear “crunchiness.” Spiced jasmine continues to add aromatics on the finish.” – Meredith May, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#)

**92** – “xxxxxxxxxxxxx.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**90** - "The 2016 Chardonnay Sunchase Vineyard Unoaked has uncomplicated, clean notes of fresh apples and pears with an undercurrent of baking bread and allspice. The palate is medium to full-bodied with a pleasant yeastiness to support the ripe apple flavors, finishing on a spicy note." – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)



## **2014 Cabernet Sauvignon:**

**94** – “xxxxxx.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**91** – “A red with chocolate, walnut and spiced character. Full body, chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Lots going on. Needs two or three years to soften. Better in 2020.” – James Suckling, [www.jamessuckling.com](http://www.jamessuckling.com)

**91** – “Elegantly soft and succulent, this wine is polished in tannin and integrated oak, with dark brooding flavors of black cherry and sage. Powerfully concentrated, it impresses from first sip, with a length of black pepper and clove.” – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**90** - "The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard ratchets up the level of intensity. It has a deeper ruby/purple color, more depth and ripeness, medium to full body, soft, silky tannins, and a lush finish. This is excellent Cabernet Sauvignon to drink now and over the next 12-15 years." – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**90** - "Incorporating smaller amounts of Merlot and Petit Verdot, the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard is another fresh, elegant wine from this estate. Cassis, plums, underbrush, and cedary herb notes, medium body, good mid-palate depth, and a great finish all characterize this rock-solid, balanced, age-worthy Napa Valley Cabernet. As with the Henry's Reserve, it's going to keep for 10-15 years." – Jeb Dunnuck, [JebDunnuck.com](http://JebDunnuck.com)

## **2015 Cabernet Sauvignon:**

**93** - "The deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard has quite a complex nose of baked berries, cassis and black cherry preserves with spice box, potpourri and lifted char. Full, rich and concentrated in the soft and plush mouth, it's a little low on acid but still very impressive, finishing long.." – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**93** – “The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon is laced with dark cherry, plum, sweet French oak, mocha, licorice and spice. Pliant, supple and resonant, the 2015 offers terrific depth and persistence in a resonant, inviting style that holds considerable near to medium-term appeal. The 2015 finishes with substantial power, intensity and darkness, all of which add to its distinct personality.” – Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

**92+** - "The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Pellet Vineyard, like the Henry's Reserve, is a step up over the more mid-weight, elegant 2014. Offering up terrific notes of blackberries, blueberries, toasted spices, violets, and graphite, it stays tight and focused on the palate, with good acidity and ample tannin. It's not quite as broad and expansive as the Henry's Reserve, but offers a classic, high-quality style that's going to benefit from 2-4 years of cellaring and shine for a decade or more." – Jeb Dunnuck, [JebDunnuck.com](http://JebDunnuck.com)

**92** – “Dense with polished tannins and lots of blueberry and dark chocolate character. Full body, tight and rich yet a tension and freshness at the end. Better in 2019.” – James Suckling, [www.jamessuckling.com](http://www.jamessuckling.com)



## **2014 Merlot:**

**94** – “Bright and juicy with plum and black raspberry; crisp, elegant and nicely delineated; silky texture and lovely balance; long, deep and lovely.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The Tasting Panel](#)

**93** – “Editor’s Choice” This is the producer's inaugural offering of the variety, made in tiny amounts, but boy oh boy, it's good. Bright blue and black-berry succulence exude vibrancy and freshness on the palate complemented by savory hints of tar, black licorice and char. Velvety soft tannins allow the fruit to speak. – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

## **2015 Merlot:**

**94** – “Dense and lush; elegant and smooth with tangy berry fruit and spice; lovely balance and texture; long and showing lots of finesse.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**94** – “Medium to deep garnet-purple, the 2015 Merlot Pellet Vineyard has a nose of plums, blackberry compote, spice box and earth with hints of anise and menthol. Medium to full-bodied and soft in the mouth, it's a little hollow in the middle but comes through spicy on the finish..” – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**91** – “The 2015 Merlot is quite gracious. Expressive floral and savory notes are laced throughout a core of bright, red berry fruit. Drink this silky, mid-weight Merlot over the next handful of years.” – Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

## **2013 Henry’s Reserve:**

**92** – “The 2013 Henry's Reserve (80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon) has beautifully sweet tannin, lots of coffee and mocha, and a plump voluptuous texture. This is a hedonistic and appealing wine with a deep ruby/purple color, plenty of flesh, fruit and purity. It is well done and best drunk over the next decade.” – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**92** – “This special cuvée shows more freshness and focus than the regular bottle. Plum, spice and chocolate character with silky tannins and a voluptuous finish. Drink or hold.” – James Suckling, [www.jamesuckling.com](http://www.jamesuckling.com)

## **2014 Henry’s Reserve:**

**95**– “Dark and rich with ripe berry fruit; smooth and juicy, rich and dense with tangy fruit, bright acidity and vanilla oak; Deep, lush and elegant.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**92** – “This small-production blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot from winemaker Tom Rinaldi is rounded and juicy, with moderate acidity. It shows generous clove, cinnamon and black cherry flavors, the structure supportive and graceful.” – Virginie Boone, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

**92** – “A rich and velvety red with blackberry and currant character. Full body, ripe tannins and a walnut finish. A little extracted now. Slightly old school but attractive. Needs two or three years to soften.” – James Suckling, [www.jamesuckling.com](http://www.jamesuckling.com)



## **2015 Henry's Reserve:**

**94** – “Pellet's 2015 Henry's Reserve is powerful and ample in the palate in its first impression. Expressive floral notes add brightness to the red berry fruit, while silky tannins contribute to an overall impression of finesse. In 2015, the Henry's Reserve offers a compelling interplay of richness and energy.” – Anthony Galloni, [Vinous Media](#)

**94** - "A proprietary blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot, all from the estate Pellet Vineyard and aged 20 months in new French oak, the 2015 Henry's Reserve boasts a ruby/purple color as well as a deep, opulent, incredibly sexy style. Plums, cassis, Asian spices, and graphite notes all emerge from this beauty that hits the palate with a full-bodied, expansive, broad texture that carries sweet tannin, moderate acidity, and a finish that won't quit. It's a big step up over the 2014 and will drink nicely for at least 10-15 years.– Jeb Dunnuck, [JebDunnuck.com](#)

**93**– “Smooth plum nose; lush, and ripe with spice and berry fruit; toasty and elegant with depth and complexity; balanced and long.” – Anthony Dias Blue, [The SOMM Journal](#), [The TASTING PANEL](#), [Blue Lifestyle](#)

**92**– “015 Henry's Reserve is deep garnet-purple in color with a Chinese five spice, smoked meat, crème de cassis and incense-scented nose plus fragrant earth and dried flowers nuances. Medium to full-bodied and chewy in the mouth, it has a rich fruit core and a savory/earthy finish.” – Robert Parker, [Wine Advocate](#)

**91** – “Aromas of nuts, dark berry and dark chocolate follow through to a full body, with soft and round tannins and a juicy finish. Fruit overrides the tannins at the moment – fruit-forward is the phrase. Drink now or hold.” – James Suckling, [www.jamessuckling.com](#)