

BARRA SCORES & REVIEWS





Barra of Mendocino 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Mendocino)

Editors' Choice



From first pour, the depth and complexity of this Chardonnay is immediately evident with pronounced aromas of ripe yellow and green apple, yellow peach and nectarine, cantaloupe and white and pink roses—dew-covered and warming in the morning sun. These fresh components are complemented by secondary notes of hazelnut, almond, vanilla and nutmeg. The palate doesn't disappoint, providing the right amount of acid to uplift those fruits and add a refreshing center to this voluptuous white wine, leading toward a long finish. —*STACY BRISCOE*



2021 Barra 'Reserve' Chardonnay- This displays straightforward vanilla cream and peach flavors with baked apple on the palate. Delicious, enjoy now and over the next several years.

Drink 2023-2028- **90**



2021 Barra 'Reserve' Pinot Noir- Made from organic grapes, the 'Reserve' displays tilled soil tones with ripe cranberry and red cherry on the palate. Juicy and fruit-forward, enjoy now and over the next several years.

Drink 2023-2028- **91**



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"Affordable quality and no frills. Really love what they're doing at Barra!"



Portfolio tasting today with the new wines at [@barraofmendocino](https://www.barraofmendocino.com). We've found their wines before to be of **high quality, approachable, and affordable** and this time around was no different!

2021 / Chardonnay / Banana, oak, lemon cake, baking spice, vanilla, ripe peach and white florals. Round and honeyed mouthfeel, yellow ripe fruits balanced out by medium acidity. The oak integration is still strong upfront but fades out pretty quickly out in glass giving you more of the sweet yellow fruit notes. Quite lovely. / **90 points** / \$24 /

2021/ Pinot Noir / vanilla, spice, and toasted oak, black cherry, raspberry, and a hint of earthiness/underbrush. Solid amount of fruit, brightness on the back palate with ample acidity and some earthy stem notes of peppercorn. Opens up nicely. Richer on day two with the fruit and spice. / **91 points** / \$26 /

2020/ Cabernet Sauvignon / ripe blackberry, cassis, chocolate covered cherries layered with notes of vanilla, leather, and a hint of tobacco. Cool-toned, balanced mouthfeel with firm tannins and bright acidity. A lot to like, and opens up with just a little bit of air. / **91 points** / \$28 /

Affordable quality and no frills. Really love what they're doing at Barra!

THE **tastingpanel** & THE **SOMM** JOURNAL
MAGAZINE

Barra 2021 Reserve Chardonnay, Mendocino (\$24) BOTTLE

Made with organic grapes, a flavor profile of lemon battered chiffon cake offer a sense of salty minerality. Balanced, with pretty floral notes complementing pineapple and pine nuts. **91**



American Pleasures #7: Barra of Mendocino, Part 2

TAV talkavino
Mar 3



“All three wines perfectly delivered. Each one was varietally correct and perfectly matched my expectations. ”

Let me now get back to the surprise associated with Barra wines. I got their three newly released bottles to try - Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Now, here lies the danger. This trio can be called THE California wines. Each category by itself - California Chardonnay, California Pinot Noir, California Cabernet Sauvignon sets the bar really, really high. We have all tasted *amazing* wines in these three categories - that means that the frame of reference has very little room for error. You know my take here - if the bottle says "California Cabernet Sauvignon" on the label, it is better to be THE California Cabernet Sauvignon, the classic as is expected.

The new surprise? All three wines perfectly delivered. Each one was varietally correct and perfectly matched my expectations. Barra Chardonnay was Californian Chardonnay through and through. And so were Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon. And they continued to be pop-and-pour wines. And - these are very reasonably priced wines, considering the pleasure they deliver.

Here are my notes:

2021 Barra Chardonnay Reserve Redwood Valley Mendocino (14% ABV, \$24, 7 months on the lees, 30% new French Oak, balance in neutral oak, made with organic grapes)

Light golden

A touch of the gunflint, earthy undertones

Buttery profile with green apples, good acidity, round, delicious.

8, beautiful. Would be happy to drink on any occasion.

2021 Barra Pinot Noir Reserve Redwood Valley Mendocino (14.5% ABV, \$26, 8 months 25% new French oak, balance in neutral barrels)

Dark ruby

Tart cherries, herbs, restrained

Sweet cherries and plums on the palate, a touch of vanilla, medium body, round, clean, easy to drink

8-, perfectly quaffable.

8 on the second day, it needs a bit of time to show its true beauty.

2020 Barra Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Redwood Valley Mendocino (14.5% ABV, \$28, 18 months 30% new French oak, balance in neutral barrels)

Garnet

Cassis, earth, sweet basil

Dark berries, eucalyptus, minerality, clean acidity, beautifully layered texture. Shows almost sweet upon opening, but quickly loses baby fat to show tight, muscular texture.

8+, outstanding. I can make it my go-to Cabernet Sauvignon easily.

Here you are, my friends. Three delicious wines for you to add to the "find and drink" category - beautifully packaged and now certified organic.

No Holds Barra

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"Damn this is good."

Barra Mendocino Reserve Chardonnay 2021

Just that hint of gunflint-y minerality battles the marshmallow and vanillin effect of oak and in the end they partner up quite happily. Warming nose, filled with aforementioned minerals and nutmeg, citrus compound butter and yellow pear, full-figured body (not quite voluptuous) brings all of the above, all with a bit butterscotch. Lovely and silky and just rich enough to be a winter white but lively enough to face a hot day too.

Barra Mendocino Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

All vibrant blackberry and black currant (so different from red) jam on the nose with hints of tobacco and just a touch of dried vine zest—JUST a tiny touch, like one finger gently place on the lips telling the pyrazines to whisper. Supple on the palate, neither heavy nor light, but somehow more than medium bodied—like it glides with some drag—and boasts expansive stewed berries (mostly black and blue) thinned just enough to slide through the mouth guiding professor-ly (like they wear tweed) hints of black currant, vanilla bean through. Shades of dried earth and cloves come in in the finish. It manages to be bright and classy, despite having rather elevated tannins and alcohol. Very friendly.

Barra Reserve Pinot Noir 2021

A nice little slip dress of a Pinot. A noir one, naturally. Lithe, pleasing, easy going. The nose brings ripe but not jammy cherries and makes me think "cherry Gushers" but not sweet. A mid-level palate, this wine has a texture to it, with drying tannins, that serve as a conductor of all the undercurrents in this wine—cola, tea, and mint. The big currents though? The ones that parade loudly? That's more cherry. Vanilla bean. Allspice and cordial. Truly a pleasing specimen—and one of the things that endears me to Mendocino is evident here in spades: the fruit is ripe but not overly jammy or overly oaky, sort of how Oregon Pinots show to me these days. Damn this is good.



California Wines & Wineries

Wines and Wineries in California

2023 Cabernet Franc Celebration, Wine Competition Registration	Wineries by California Region	Best Wines by Year
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BARRA of Mendocino – A New Label and an Astonishing 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

POSTED ON FEBRUARY 14, 2023

"Without a doubt one of the best Cabernet Sauvignons..."

The first thing that needs to be mentioned is be prepared to have your mind blown as to what kind of Cabernet Sauvignon can come out of Mendocino!! This was simply a wonderful surprise opening this bottle. The wine comes from their 50 acre vineyard site located at 764 feet in elevation and has been designated certified organic since 2007. The wine rested 18 months in 30% new French oak barrels and the balance being neutral.

First on the eyes a deep royal purple with glistening hues around the rim. Medium to medium-heavy viscosity. On the nose this was no ordinary "milk toast or weak cousin" Cabernet Sauvignon from Mendocino, but immediately intense aromas of cherries and blackberry wafted into the senses. On the palate cocoa and vanilla coffee along with blackberry swirled lively in the mouth. On the finish, a slight "sweetness" was present but most notably was the smooth and silky, yet notable tannins providing a Cabernet Sauvignon that was "Napa worthy". It is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon with 5% Petite Sirah. Only 427 cases were produced and is listed on their website for \$28. Without a doubt one of the best Cabernet Sauvignon's and at \$28 if a flat out bargain! This just made my annual Best Wines Tasted in the year, not just for a remarkable taste but such a bargain price. That list comes out in December each year.



“Delicious, fan-friendly style but shows good complexity as well.”

2020 Barra of Mendocino Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve – USA, California, North Coast, Mendocino
SRP: \$28

A punchy purple color. Ripe and fun on the nose with black cherries and plum sauce, roasted figs, and a cool mix of tar, smoky earth, with chocolate and caramel nuances. The palate shows smooth tannins on a ripe but fresh frame, with flavors of roasted figs, blueberries, and black cherries. The nuances of black pepper and portobello mushrooms, with roasted red pepper, rose potpourri, some coffee and dark chocolate elements. Delicious, fan-friendly style but shows good complexity as well.

(88 points IJB)

“...it has a fun and accessible style but shows a lot of balance and complexity for the price point. “

2021 Barra of Mendocino Pinot Noir Reserve – USA, California, North Coast, Mendocino
SRP: \$26

Vibrant ruby color. A bright but sweet nose of red apple peels, raspberries, rhubarb, along with spiced tea, library dust, rose petals and pepper. The palate shows dusty tannins and a fresh appeal with tangy raspberries and red cherries. Notes of sweet red flowers, spiced tea, rhubarb, white pepper, it has a fun and accessible style but shows a lot of balance and complexity for the price point.

(89 points IJB)

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Barra of Mendocino Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2020, California

Dark ruby in color with a wide reddish rim, and a strong fruity nose. Full bodied and bold with medium plus acidity.

Dry and very fruity on the palate with mild complexity. Showing blackberries, plums, raspberries, cooked cherries, spices, cedar, vanilla, licorice, chocolates, coffee, peppercorn, mocha and cola.

Tangy finish with medium tannins and raspberries. This is a young Cabernet Sauvignon from Mendocino County, but already good by itself as a sipping wine. Nicely balanced, rich and extracted. Tangy and interesting. Needs an hour to open up, so be patient. Showing lots of black fruits with chocolate notes right out of the bottle, and once it opens up, more red fruits come in to play. Tasty.

Will continue to age nicely in the next 5 to 7 years. Would be nice to revisit it in 3 years. Organic Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were handpicked and aged in (30% new) French Oak barrels for 18 months. 14.5% alcohol by volume. **90 points.**





STEPHEN MCCONNELL A Daily Journal of Fruit, Structure, Varietal honesty, and Balance.

STEPHEN MCCONNELL

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“A gorgeous pinot: something showing the true potential for Mendo wines and why you should seek them out. One of my favorite AVA’s.”

April 10, 2023

BARRA



“A perfectly exuberant Pinot, showing classical sprite along ripe, user-friendly lines, clear, medium garnet-tinged ruby in the glass, a nose oily and concentrated, the fruit musty splendor pumped up on super-cherry and glycerin-ey smoke. There’s a buttery aspect to the bouquet feeling a lot more RRV than Mendo, but that is the deal—usually with ‘reserve’ pinots from the North Coast. Sharp plum and apricot are laid down on moldy blood-orange and graphite—steely to a point, but never going full-throttle vegetal or mineral. It’s lush to smell, though dank characteristics swell throughout. It’s easy and probably inexpensive, and that’s why you should pay attention.

Tasting it lays down lavish layers of charming cherry and dense blackberry into pinot-arenas usually reserved for Syrah or Grenache—possibly even cab. Leathery and lush, the burn of alcohol coming in early and I’m going to go with an easy 14-5—maybe more. Ginger beer and ginger ale evoke muddy, spicy points of light against a brick wall of powerful berry. Ridiculously infantile, with structure chiming in at every corner begging for age, the musty citrus making claim to areas untouched by maceration and plush oak. A gorgeous pinot: something showing the true potential for Mendo wines and why you should seek them out. One of my favorite AVA’s.”