



Review by Antonio Galloni  
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No one has done more to carry the banner for the Santa Rita Hills than Greg Brewer and Steve Clifton. Both together at Brewer-Clifton and separately in their other projects, Brewer and Clifton consistently deliver delicious wines that are also deeply thought provoking with regards to the potential these vineyard sites hold. The Pinots in particular are compelling. The 2009 Pinots saw a seven day cold soak and fermentations that lasted a total of 35-40 days, with 100% stems.

The **2009 Chardonnay** is an absolutely gorgeous wine. Understated and classy from start to finish, it shows off layers of ripe fruit, subtle oak and spices. There is plenty of acidity to balance an expression of fruit that is generous, but just short of hitting tropical notes. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2018. 92 points

The **2009 Chardonnay 3-D** is quite fresh and vibrant. Lime, lemon, minerals and saline notes emerge from this energetic Chardonnay. The wine's vibrancy follows through nicely to the focused finish. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2019. 93 points

The **2009 Chardonnay Gnesa** is striking for its transparency and crystalline purity. Not surprisingly the Gnesa emerges from a north facing plot. This isn't the most complex Chardonnay at Brewer-Clifton, but it is among the most refined. It will appeal most to readers who appreciate a restrained style of California Chardonnay. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2018. 92 points

The **2009 Chardonnay Mount Carmel** comes across as quite intense and deep. Layers of expressive tropical fruit fill out the wine's broad shouldered frame nicely. Here, too, I miss some of the refinement of the best Brewer-Clifton Chardonnays. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2015. 90 points

The **2009 Chardonnay Sea Smoke** is another of the more subtle, mineral-driven Chardonnays in this lineup. Sweet floral aromatics lead to citrus peel, white flowers and crushed rocks. The Sea Smoke balances its prominent minerality with gorgeous mid-palate fleshiness and a delicate, perfumed finish. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2018. 93 points

The **2009 Chardonnay Sweeney Canyon** shows a deep, baritone register in its dark, rich fruit, licorice and earthiness. This is a decidedly larger-scaled style of Chardonnay endowed with generous fruit and a powerful, muscular finish. I find this a little less elegant than some of the other 2009 Chardonnays, but that is really splitting hairs at this level. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2017. 91 points

The **2009 Pinot Noir** is a highly expressive wine. Sweet red fruit, herbs, licorice, dried flowers and mint are some of the notes that emerge from this mid-weight Pinot. The 100% stems come through in the wine's aromatic profile and high-toned finish. This is a terrific introduction to the house style and a fabulous effort at this level. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020. 92 points

The **2009 Pinot Noir 3-D** is a big, large-scaled wine that needs time to come together. It possesses striking inner perfume. Dark fruit, licorice and flowers wrap around the powerful, intense finish. This should be superb once the tannins begin to melt away. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022. 92 points

The **2009 Pinot Noir Ampelos** comes across as quite energetic and tightly wound. Dark cherries, plums, sweet spices and menthol emerge, but only with great reluctance. Sweet floral notes and licorice appear later, adding complexity and nuance to the red fruit. There is marvelous integrity in the glass; the only thing needed is time. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2021. 92 points

Generous fruit, acidity and structure all come together beautifully in the **2009 Pinot Noir Cargasacchi**. It is arguably the most complex of the 2009 Pinots here. Plush dark cherries, plums, mint and licorice are some of the nuances that flow in this powerful, intense wine. Layers of sweet inner perfume add complexity on the virile finish. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2019. 94 points

The **2009 Pinot Noir Clos Pepe** bursts onto the palate with a rush of super-ripe, exotic fruit. The fleshiness and sheer muscle of the Pommard clone come through in spades, while any suggestion of stems is very much in the background, if apparent at all. This is a fabulous showing from Brewer-Clifton. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019. 93 points

The **2009 Pinot Noir Melville** reveals a powerful fleshy personality close in style to the Cargasacchi. It shows marvelous density and a brooding inner darkness that is hard to fully capture with words. The wine turns a bit more radiant on the expressive finish. This parcel at Melville is planted with the 114 and 115 clones Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019. 93 points

The **2009 Pinot Noir Mount Carmel** impresses for its generous, radiant personality. Constantly changing in the glass, it shows off a multi-dimensional expression of dark raspberries, crushed flowers, licorice and spices. I especially like the way this blossoms through the mid-palate and onto the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019. 93 points

The **2009 Pinot Noir Zotovich** emerges from one of the warmer sites the winery works with. Sweet candied fruit, flowers and crushed berries are some of the nuances that flow in this perfumed, intriguing wine. Sweet roses and herbs appear later, adding further dimensions of nuance. There is something eccentric to the Zotovich that is incredibly appealing. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019 92 points