



91 2011 Pfendler Vineyards Chardonnay,

Points Sonoma Coast (Sonoma County, California)

Kimberly Pfendler's Sonoma Mountain vineyard, which lies in the broader Sonoma Coast AVA -- an area known informally as the Petaluma Gap -- produces Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs that reflect the impact of the chilly, windy climate on wine grapes. For example, this Chardonnay is crunchy-crisp and focused, not blowsy and over-the-top in ripeness, which is common in wines made from warmer regions. It has aromas of chiseled granite, green apple and hazelnut, and a moderately rich, balanced palate of Granny Smith apple, citrus, subtle oak and firm acidity. Ageworthy. 13.8% alcohol.—Linda Murphy