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Arnot Roberts – January 2019

2017 Arnot-Roberts Chardonnay Watson Ranch - The 2017 Chardonnay Watson Ranch is a gorgeous wine. Apricot, chamomile, dried flowers, sage and dried pear are all laced together in this super-expressive, inviting Chardonnay. Readers should be prepared to cellar the 2017, as it is quite closed today. Bright saline notes add freshness and zip to this super-expressive Chardonnay.

**93 2019-2027 Jan 2019**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Chardonnay Trout Gulch - Another highlight in this range, the 2017 Chardonnay Trout Gulch is stellar. Bright and focused, as it always is, the 2017 offers a striking interplay of tension and fruit density. Lemon peel, white flowers, mint and chalk are all beautifully delineated in this saline, finely-sculpted Chardonnay. The 2017 is going to need a few years to come into its own, but it is positively striking, even in the early going.

**95 2019-2027 Jan 2019**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Old Vine White - The 2017 White Wine Old Vine Heinstein Vineyard is another fabulous wine in this range from Arnot-Roberts. In this vintage, the Old Vine is especially bright and perfumed, with plenty of white flower and tropical notes that give the wine its unique flavor signatures. This field blend white is a wine of real distinction and tons of class.

**95 2020-2027 Jan 2019**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Ribolla Gialla - The 2017 Ribolla Gialla Vare Vineyard is a big, ample wine. Dried pear, almond, earthiness, dried flowers and sage all give the 2017 a distinctly savory, stony character. Creamy and beautifully layered, the Ribolla is quite rich in this vintage, but that is not at all a bad thing. I would prefer to drink it at the dinner table, where the wine's natural resonance will be most at home.

**92 2019-2025 Jan 19**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Legan Vineyard Pinot Noir - The 2017 Pinot Noir Legan Vineyard is a gorgeous Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir. Vertical in feel, with tremendous fruit richness, the 2017 is so gorgeous today. All the elements come together effortlessly in this super-expressive, inviting Pinot Noir. In 2017, the Legan is especially sensual and silky. Bright red cherry, raspberry, mint, wild flowers and blood orange add brightness to this pretty, nuanced Pinot Noir from Arnot-Roberts. I would give it a few years in bottle to fully come together, but readers will have a hard time exercising that kind of discipline!

**95+ 2022-2032 Jan 19**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Peter Martin Ray Vineyard Pinot Noir - The 2017 Pinot Noir Peter Martin Ray Vineyard is superb. Bright, focused and wonderfully energetic, the 2017 is simply magnificent. Dark cherry, plum, lavender, crushed rocks, blood orange and mint are all beautifully delineated. There is a real sense of energy here that is compelling. At times, the Peter Martin Ray shows a more somber side. It is that push and pull of elements that makes the 2017 so alluring.

**95 2022 – 2032 Jan 19**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Coastlands Vineyard Pinot Noir - The 2017 Pinot Noir Coastlands Vineyard is another gorgeous wine in this range. Silky, radiant and supple, the 2017 offers a striking combination of fruit richness and the more floral/savory qualities that make this site so distinctive. Dark red cherry, rose petal, sage, mint and lavender meld together in a mid-weight yet rich Pinot loaded with personality. It's always interesting to taste wines from this Sonoma Coast vineyard that is best known for wines made by Williams-Selyem and proprietor Ross Cobb himself. I loved it.

**95 2022 – 2032 Jan 19**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Sonoma Coast Syrah - The 2017 Syrah (Sonoma Coast) is a gorgeous wine and a huge overachiever in its peer group. Bright red cherry and plum fruit, rose petal, lavender and spice abound in this super-expressive, pliant Syrah. The purity of the flavors is simply remarkable. Medium in body, gracious and beautifully perfumed, the 2017 is a rock-star wine.

**93 2020-2032 Jan 19**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Clary Ranch Syrah -The 2017 Syrah Clary Ranch is striking. Deep and resonant on the palate, the 2017 has so much to say. Some of the angular edges and intense savoriness the Clary Ranch can show have been softened by the intense heat of the year. Silky, fine tannins wrap around a core of dark cherry, plum, lavender, spice and pepper. A Syrah of power and structural intensity, the Clary Ranch is incredibly distinctive, and that is in a lineup in which many of the wines are exceptional. Two thousand-seventeen is a superb vintage for the Clary Ranch Syrah.

**96 2022-2032 Jan 19**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Que Vineyard Syrah - Arguably the highlight in this range, the 2017 Syrah Que Syrah Vineyard is outrageously beautiful. A wine of exotic beauty, the 2017 has so much to offer. Super-ripe black cherry, plum, lavender, spice and black pepper are front and center. The Que Syrah stands out for a compelling interplay of exotic ripeness and cool climate savoriness. It is one of the most exciting young wines I tasted in Sonoma this year. Don't miss it.

**97 2022-2037 Jan 19**

2016 Arnot-Roberts Fellom Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon - The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Fellom Ranch is sensual and nuanced, with tremendous textural finesse. Over the last few years, Duncan Arnot and Nathan Roberts seem to have given this wine an extra degree of elegance - especially in the tannins - that other vintages did not always show. Time in the glass brings out a range of floral, earthy, spiced and cedary notes that are typical of Santa Cruz Mountains Cabernets, along with layers of dimension that flesh out effortlessly.

**96 2024-2041 Jan 19**

2016 Arnot-Roberts Montecillo Cabernet Sauvignon - The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Montecillo Vineyard is another outrageously beautiful wine from Arnot-Roberts. Dark, powerful and yet very much old-school in its sense of structure, the 2016 has so much to offer. Blackberry, sage, smoke, grilled herbs, leather and incense all flesh out in a dramatic, potent Cabernet Sauvignon endowed with tremendous class and pure power. I loved it.

**96 2024-2041 Jan 19**

2016 Arnot-Roberts Clajeux Cabernet Sauvignon - The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Clajeux Vineyard is a powerful, savory wine. A blast of red cherry, plum, chalk, chocolate and scorched earth gives the wine its distinctive profile. The purity of the flavors is striking. Medium in body, nuanced and super-expressive, the Clajeux is superb in 2016. It is a terrific expression of Sonoma's Chalk Hill district.

**94 2021-2036 Jan 19**

2017 Arnot-Roberts Trousseau - The 2017 Trousseau (North Coast) is a very pretty wine. In this vintage, the Trousseau is a bit richer in feel and less whole-cluster influenced than is usually the case. Dried cherry, wild flowers, rosewater and savory herbs all grace this polished, exquisitely beautiful wine. The 2017 was aged mostly in neutral oak, with a bit of stainless steel.

**90 2019-2025 Jan 19**