

## Key scores and awards by Wine Spectator:

- Related to Cabernet Sauvignon:



### Wine Spectator December 2015 'Wine of the Year' written by James Laube:

‘As a textbook example of the way passionate investment, technical skill and an outstanding vineyard can create compelling wines, the Peter Michael Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Au Paradis 2012 is our 2015 Wine of the Year.’ James Laube.

‘Nick Morlet, winemaker at Peter Michael, who has made the Knights Valley Les Pavots for a decade, also believes Au Paradis is perfect for Cabernet. The soil and exposure ensure even ripening, he says, and the heat is just right. ‘Cabernet likes to sweat’, Morlet observes. When the sun sets, the cooler air from San Pablo Bay mitigates the temperature, keeping balance in the grapes.’ James Laube.

### **Peter Michael Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Au Paradis 2012, 96 points (\$195).**

‘Deliciously pure and supple, with explosive dark berry and red berry flavors and a silky, polished texture. The tannins become more evident midway through, with a gravelly crushed rock profile that adds a dimension of dust and mineral. Drink now through 2030. 1,785 cases made.’ James Laube.

Wine Spectator July 2010. Fire and Ice, written by James Laube.

‘Peter Michael’s Les Pavots 2008 (98, \$175), a Bordeaux blend grown in Sonoma’s Knights Valley, north of Napa, is one of the stars of the vintage. Winemaker Nicolas Morlet describes 2008 as the warmest year since 2002, though not as hot as that earlier vintage. The 2008, he says, ‘is a neoclassic style of Les Pavots.’ And it shows in telltale traits of density, concentration, polish and finesse.’ James Laube.

**Peter Michael Les Pavots Knights Valley 2008, 98 points (\$175).**

‘Presents a dazzling array of flavors, along with focus, style and authenticity. Dark, dense and spicy, with dark berry, mineral, cedar, sage, roasted caraway and tobacco flavors, this is full-blown yet graceful and detailed, with a tremendous finish that reverberates with the joys of ripe, stylish Cabernet. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2024. 3,500 cases made.’ James Laube.

▪ Related to Chardonnay:



Wine Spectator December 2010. The Top 100 Wines of 2010 by James Laube.

**#3 of top 100, Peter Michael Chardonnay Sonoma County Ma Belle-Fille 2008, 97 points (\$85).**

‘Ma Belle-Fille is the youngest vineyard on the winery’s Knights Valley estate, as well as the highest, reaching an elevation of 1,900 feet, and is quickly becoming the winery’s best source for Chardonnay. It’s a cool location but situated above the summer fog line, allowing for excellent sun exposure. Winemaker Nick Morlet uses native yeast and the wine is 100 percent barrel fermented in French oak. This is a tremendous Chardonnay, intense, pure, ripe and complex, with concentrated pear, apple, fig and melon flavors that

are elegant and refined. Well-defined and long on the finish. Drink now through 2016, 2,100 cases made.’ James Laube.

**Peter Michael Chardonnay Knights Valley Point Rouge 2012, 97 points (\$185).**

‘Chardonnay doesn’t get much better than this. A smooth, rich core of tropical fruit, pineapple, guava, tangerine and nectarine flavors, giving this a brilliant range of fruit to draw upon. Sails along on a long, persistent finish, offering layer after layer of fruit complexity and ending with a kiss of toasty oak. Drink now through 2020. 290 cases made.’ James Laube.

▪ Related to Pinot Noir:

**Peter Michael Pinot Noir Fort Ross-Seaview Clos du Ciel 2019, 95 points (\$140).**

‘Shows luscious up-front spiciness, with notes of ripeness to the layered dark plum, currant paste and blackberry tart flavors that are loaded with toasty richness. The long, plush finish offers chocolate and brioche accents. Drink now through 2027. 500 cases made.’ Kim Marcus.

Wine Spectator October 2011. James Laube’s 20 Favorite Sonoma Pinot Noir Producers.

‘Peter Michael is heeding the call of the coast, and the result is a trio of brilliant debut Sonoma Pinots from the steep estate vineyard. Nicolas Morlet displays the same deft touch with these wines as he does with the Moulin Rouge Pinot from Santa Lucia Highlands, the winery’s Chardonnays and Les Pavot red.’ James Laube.

**Peter Michael Pinot Noir Fort Ross-Seaview Clos du Ciel 2010, 95 points (\$125).**

‘A smooth, rich and creamy red, delivering layers of blackberry, plum and blueberry flavors. Turns silky midpalate and then ends with the right touch of tannins, showing a hint of smoky oak. Drink now through 2024. 330 cases made.’ James Laube.

**Peter Michael Pinot Noir Fort Ross-Seaview Le Caprice 2010, 95 points (\$110).**

‘Ripe and generous, with plush, rich blackberry and wild berry fruit that’s pure and focused, gaining depth and nuance and ending with a long, persistent finish, where this picks up a touch of smoky oak. Drink now through 2022. 730 cases made.’ James Laube.

**Peter Michael Pinot Noir Fort Ross-Seaview Clos du Ciel 2009, 95 points (\$125).**

‘Pleasantly earthy, with an intense minerally streak running through taut blueberry, wild berry and raspberry flavors. Medium- to full-bodied, turning juicy and succulent and ending with a complex dance of wet stone and berry. Drink now through 2017. 370 cases made.’ James Laube.

**Peter Michael Pinot Noir Fort Ross-Seaview Ma Danseuse 2009, 95 points (\$110).**

‘Fragrant wilted rose and black cherry scents are complex, vibrant, elegant and deeply perfumed in this medium-bodied red, with touches of rich wild berry and raspberry. Ends with a delicate minerally aftertaste that lingers with snappy berry notes. Drink now through 2017. 530 cases made.’ James Laube.

## Accolades from Robert Parker-Wine Advocate:

Robert Parker-Wine advocate, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Issue #222.

‘There’s nothing that this winery does that is not admirable. Owned by Sir Peter Michael, this estate has employed a bevy of brilliant winemakers over the years, the current being Nicolas Morlet, who brought French savoir-faire and applied it to extraordinary vineyard sites to produce world-class wines of extraordinary richness, intensity and complexity. Readers looking for some of the best Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs, Sauvignon Blancs, Sauvignon/Semillon blends, and Bordeaux proprietary red blends can do no better than the wines from Peter Michael winery.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

Robert Parker-Wine Advocate, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Issue #216.

‘If one considers the total production of all the Peter Michael cuvées (which must be approaching 30,000 cases) and the diversity of their wines, including six cuvées of Chardonnay, four Pinot Noir, Three Bordeaux blends, and lastly Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon, Peter Michael Winery may be the best run winery of its size for world-class quality. There has been a succession of brilliant minds and craftspeople who have gone through these doors from the early days with Helen Turley and Mark Aubert, to Luc Morlet and now Nicolas Morlet. Having followed these wines for nearly two decades they seem to go from strength to strength, and the 2012s and 2013s may be the finest group of wines Peter Michael has ever produced. This is indeed high praise!’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

## 100 points given by Robert Parker-Wine Advocate for 10 wines:

### **2018 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay Point Rouge, 100 points.**

‘The 2018 Chardonnay Point Rouge is composed of the best barrels from the entire estate. Floral notes of citron blossoms and honeysuckle leap from the glass, over a core of grapefruit, yuzu and ripe pears with hints of struck match, almond croissant and lime zest. The medium to full-bodied palate has a racy backbone supporting the tightly wound citrus and pear flavors with a lovely creaminess to the texture and a very long finish packed with tension and bursting with fruit. While it is tempting to drink now, it’s going to really impress with another 2-3 years in bottle and drink for a further 15 years+. 268 cases were made.’ Lisa Perrotti-Brown.

### **2017 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay Point Rouge, 100 points.**

‘The 2017 Chardonnay Point Rouge slowly releases scents of candied ginger and citrus peel before being coaxed into giving up loads of savory suggestions of pie crust, shaved almonds and bread dough with a core of peach preserves, honey-drizzled pears and lemon tart plus a hint of crème caramel. Medium to full-bodied, the satiny palate possesses bags of poise and finesse with softly spoken freshness and loads of savory/toasty layers, finishing long with compelling mineral notes coming through. Already a WOW wine, I can’t wait to see this after 3-4 years in bottle. 270 cases were made.’ Lisa Perrotti-Brown.

### **2016 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay Point Rouge, 100 points.**

‘The 2016 Chardonnay Point Rouge explodes from the glass with a myriad of citrus and stone fruit notes; grapefruit, lemon tart, key lime pie and fresh nectarines; with hints of baking bread, toasted almonds, crushed rocks, spice cake and wet pebbles. The palate is full-bodied, rich and totally decadent yet with bags of finesse and nuances in the tightly knit mouth, finishing very long and layered. 275 cases produced.’ Lisa Perrotti-Brown.

### **2015 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay Point Rouge, 100 points.**

‘The 2015 Chardonnay Point Rouge is pure pedigree and class, showing all the elegance and seamlessness of a truly top-tier Chardonnay. Opening with tightly furled citrus and spiced apple notes over salty almond, cashew, allspice, anise and ginger, plus wafts of orange blossom and crushed rocks, the medium-bodied palate is wonderfully well poised, with seamless flavor layers intermingled with just enough freshness, finishing long and beautifully perfumed. Wow. 292 cases were made.’ Lisa Perrotti-Brown.

**2012 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay Point Rouge, 100 points.**

‘Remarkably, both vintages of Peter Michael’s top Chardonnay selection, the Point Rouge, may merit perfect scores. A selection of the best barrels, it is meant to age for 30 or more years. It represents the crème de la crème essence of what this estate is about. Helen Turley first coined the term by putting red dot stickers on the best barrels in the cellar, hence the name Point Rouge. This cuvée is made from Old Wente selections and some of the estate’s oldest vines, particularly the 25-year-old vines in Belle Cote. The 2012 Chardonnay Point rouge is slightly more ostentatious and flamboyant than the 2013, with lots of orange marmalade, a full-bodied texture, creamy crème brûlée notes, exotic pineapple and a mind-boggling finish. In my 36-year career, this is one of the single greatest Chardonnays I have ever tasted. It should drink well for 10-15 years, although Peter Michael thinks it has 30 years of aging potential.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

**2016 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay Cuvée Indigène, 100 points.**

‘The 2016 Chardonnay Cuvée Indigène offers up a rock-star nose of beautifully expressed pear tart, peach preserves, spiced apples and key lime with suggestions of brioche, beeswax, nutmeg and honeysuckle. The palate is medium to full-bodied, elegant and tightly wound with amazing tension and depth, finishing with epic length and many, many mineral and savory layers. This should be very long lived. 506 cases produced.’ Lisa Perrotti-Brown.

**2012 Peter Michael winery Chardonnay Cuvée Indigène, 100 points.**

‘The Chardonnay Cuvée Indigène was inspired by Helen Turley in 1988. Essentially a winemaker’s barrel selection from the finest lots of the Old Wente clone, the dominant clonal component of all these single-vineyard wines, it is fermented with natural yeasts, and has always been one of Peter Michael’s finest Chardonnays. Utter perfection, the 2012 Chardonnay Cuvée Indigène (460 cases) possesses copious notes of orange marmalade, apricot, crème brûlée, honeysuckle, citrus oil and nectarines. This beautiful, seamless, exotic full-bodied, compelling Chardonnay reveals a 45-second finish. Drink now-2025.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

**2010 Peter Michael Winery Pinot Noir Clos du Ciel, 100 points.**

‘The perfect 2010 Pinot Noir Clos du Ciel (330 cases) is a dead-ringer for the 1990 DRC La Tache. This could be a game changing Pinot Noir that sets the wine world upside down given its spectacular quality. It boasts a dense ruby/plum/purple color as well as a big, sweet bouquet of licorice, spring flowers, black currants, black cherries, forest floor and raspberries. Deep and full with a flawless attack, mid-section and finish, it builds incrementally on the palate, then lingers for 40-45 seconds on the finish. It reveals an ethereal lightness despite its intensity of flavor. This mind-boggling wine will keep for 10-15 years.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

**2012 Peter Michael Winery Pinot Noir Ma Danseuse, 100 points.**

‘The compelling 2012 Pinot Noir Ma Danseuse (1,480 cases) is even better than the 2013. Notes of lead pencil shavings, DRC-like forest floor, black raspberry, blackcurrant, Asian plum sauce, rose petal and sweet cherry characteristics are found in this spectacular, multidimensional, prodigious Pinot Noir that should drink well for 10-15+ years. The clonal material probably came from one of the DRC vineyards, so it is not surprising that in this cool climate, with the great fruit purity California can achieve, there is a DRC-like resemblance.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

**2010 Peter Michael Winery Pinot Noir Ma Danseuse, 100 points.**

‘Pure perfection, the amazing 2010 Pinot Noir Ma Danseuse is one of the greatest Pinots I have ever tasted...anywhere. There are only 140 cases of this beauty, which was cropped at just over a ton of fruit per acre. It offers up notes of bouquet garni, roasted meats, black raspberries, black currants, strawberries and cherries. Deep and full-bodied with a flawless integration of acidity, tannin, wood and alcohol, this glorious Pinot Noir should prove to be legendary. It will age effortlessly for 12+ years.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

## Other key scores from Robert Parker-Wine Advocate:

**2013 Peter Michael Winery Cabernet Sauvignon blend Les Pavots, 98+ points.**

‘The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Les Pavots, which is their proprietary red wine blend from Knights Valley, is a killer effort, and one of their all-time greats, ranking right up there with the 2007 or 2012. A blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cabernet Franc and the rest Merlot and Petit Verdot, there are 3,600 cases of it. The wine displays plenty of mocha, chocolate, blackberry, creosote and charcoal in an incredibly complex fragrance. Full-bodied and opulent, it shows loads of tannins, a hint of unsmoked cigar tobacco and plenty of black and blue fruits. Opaque purple to the rim, this wine is in need of a good 5-6 years of cellaring and certainly has 30-40 years of life in it.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

**2013 Peter Michael Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Au Paradis, 98 points.**

‘The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Au Paradis comes from one of their newer acquisitions, formerly known as the Showket Vineyard in the red soil hillsides overlooking the Oakville crossroads. This is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Cabernet Franc. Production is less than 1,530 cases. The 2013 displays loads of roasted meats,

licorice, graphite, dusty, loamy soil notes, creamy blackcurrants and blackberries, stunning richness, and a Pauillac-like first-growth cedarwood and crème de cassis notes. The wine spent all of its time in 100% new Darnajou cooperage, which is not even noticeable in the aromatics or flavors. This full-bodied modern day classic should age brilliantly for 30-35 years.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

**2012 Peter Michael Winery Pinot Noir Clos du Ciel, 98 points.**

‘The amazing 2012 Pinot Noir Clos du Ciel (575 cases) boasts a deep ruby color as well as a sweet perfume of black cherries, damp earth, forest floor, new saddle leather, and raspberries. Rich and medium to full-bodied with a floral component in addition to some tannins in the finish, the result is a slight compression and edginess to the wine as it finishes. This 2012 appears to need more time. I suspect it will hit its apogee in 7-8 years and last 25 or more.’ Robert M. Parker, Jr.

## Accolades and key scores from Jeb Dunnuck:

‘Located north of Napa Valley, in the Knights Valley AVA of Sonoma, Peter Michael utilizes incredible talent of Frenchman Nicolas Morlet. These classic, traditionally made wines certainly have an old world feel/style, yet never lose their California soul. They produce two brilliant Bordeaux Blanc look-alikes, a bevy of Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, and three Bordeaux blends. It can be a complex lineup to wrap your head around but the cuvées show singular characters and the quality is off the charts.’ Jeb Dunnuck.

**2017 Peter Michael Winery Chardonnay Point Rouge, 100 points.**

‘Pure perfection in California Chardonnay, the 2017 Chardonnay Point Rouge comes from a selection of the top barrels in the vintage. It too is rich and powerful, yet it has an incredible sense of minerality as well as a huge perfume of exotic flowers, orange blossom, crushed rock, salty sea breeze, and earth. As with most wines in this vintage, it has an incredible purity of fruit as well as integrated yet bright, racy acidity. It’s a thrill a minute and is going to come together nicely with a year or two of bottle age and keep for over a decade.’ Jeb Dunnuck.

**2016 Peter Michael Winery Pinot Noir Clos du Ciel, 100 points.**

‘A barrel selection mostly from a slightly warmer terroir, the 2016 Pinot Noir Clos du Ciel is an incredible, seamless, elegant Pinot Noir that offers extraordinary notes of caramelized cherries, framboise, strawberries, flowers, and toasted bread. Incredibly



seamless, elegant, multi-faceted, and layered, with ultra-fine tannin, no hard edges, and a gorgeous finish. It's hard to pick a favorite out of these Pinot Noir from Peter Michael as it's like splitting hairs, yet this is a tiny notch up and hits every sweet spot.' Jeb Dunnuck.

**2015 Peter Michael Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Au Paradis, 99+ points.**

'The smaller production 2015 Au Paradis is a more Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated cuvée that checks in as 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Cabernet Franc. Aged 18 months in 50% new oak, it has a more masculine, mineral-laced style offering red and black currants, crushed rocks, chocolate, and spice. Deep, rich, concentrated, and in need of 4-6 years of cellaring, this Château Latour-lookalike is an awesome, classic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon!' Jeb Dunnuck.

**2016 Peter Michael Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Au Paradis, 99 points.**

'The 2016 Au Paradis is borderline perfection in a glass and shows the incredible quality both of this estate and the vintage. Tons of blackcurrants, smoked tobacco, savory spice, dried earth, and graphite notes all emerge from full-bodied, structured, concentrated effort that reminds me of a First Growth Pauillac. With building tannins and incredible purity of fruit, it's going to benefit from 4-5 years of bottle and keep for three decades.' Jeb Dunnuck.

**2016 Peter Michael Winery Cabernet Sauvignon blend Les Pavots, 98+ points.**

'A solid step up, the 2016 Les Pavots comes from vines planted in 1989 and is a mix of two separate sites in Knights Valley. This straight-up phenomenal Cabernet offers a powerful nose of ripe black fruits, tobacco leaf, chocolate, and spring flowers, and it has a Margaux-like complexity and elegance. Full-bodied on the palate, it has a multi-dimensional, seamless texture, building tannins, and a great, great finish. It's a baby of a wine that needs 4-5 years of bottle age, but it will probably merit a triple-digit score in 7-8 years and keep for three decades.' Jeb Dunnuck.

## Accolades and Key scores from James Suckling:

### **2019 Peter Michael Cabernet Sauvignon Les Pavots, 99 points.**

‘It is very perfumed with blackberry and pinecone aromas, as well as raspberries and black cherries. Full-bodied with firm, velvety tannins that are tight-grained. Creamy and beautiful. Currant and graphite flavors come through. Lightly chewy at the end. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Drink after 2025.’ James Suckling.

### **2017 Peter Michael Chardonnay Belle Cote, 99 points & #1 Best Wine of USA in 2020.**

‘Lovely green apples and pears with attractive cream and light bread-dough undertones. Some white peaches. Full-bodied. Dense and solid with Grand Cru Burgundy sensibility. So amazing, long and seamless. Goes on for minutes. Will age beautifully. Drink or hold.’ James Suckling.

### **2016 Peter Michael Cabernet Sauvignon Au Paradis, 99 points.**

‘Loads of blackberries, blackcurrants, pine needles, lavender, meat and hints of fresh sage. Full bodied and layered with fine tannins. So polished and beautiful. I love the polish, the gorgeous sensibility and length. Refreshing and bright. I have enjoyed tasting it and pondering its greatness. Try to drink after 2023.’ James Suckling.

### **2016 Peter Michael Cabernet Sauvignon Les Pavots, 99 points.**

‘Blackberries, blueberries, raspberry Kir, sweet tobacco and black truffle. Full bodied with chewy tannins and superb texture and length. Extremely poised and powerful. Finishes with so much fresh leather and blueberries. Goes for minutes, Try after 2023.’ James Suckling.

### **2012 Peter Michael Pinot Noir Le Caprice, 98 points; #5 Top 100; #1 Best Wine of USA in 2014.**

‘The purity of fruit here is impressive, with raspberry, iodine and hint of mussel shell. Crème de framboise. Full body with firm, silky tannins and a long finish. The aromatics are crazy here. Great tannin structure. The finish comes out nowhere with aniseed.’ James Suckling.