Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Chalone Pinot Noir Press

Owen Bargreen

2023 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir, Chalone

One of the great historic California vineyards, the Brosseau Vineyard in 2011 was first wine estate to be "Certified Organic" in Monterey's Chalone Appellation. Wet stone and ultra-pure red fruits march on with copious minerals and Satsuma orange zest on the palate. With loads of mouth-watering acidity and a silky mouthfeel, this is generous, delicious Pinot Noir that will live on for at least another ten years. Drink 2025-2037 **94 Points**

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2022 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir, Chalone

Intense aromas of black plum, raspberry jam and macerated cherry are enlivened by dark but mellow spices on the nose of this bottling. Ripe, dark red-fruit flavors entice the palate, where prominent barrel spice and toasted herb elements fit into the firm structure. — **94 Points** — Matt Kettmann, November 2024

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2021 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir, Chalone

A creamy texture in the glass, this bold bottling entices the nose with intense black cherry, violet and baking-spice aromas. The palate lands with powerful, rounded fruit and spice flavors, with creamier, smoother tannins that still have an edge. **94 Points** — Matt Kettmann, November 2023

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2019 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir, Chalone

Charred boysenberry, wild strawberry, chai spice and wet, gravelly soil aromas come through on the layered nose of this bottling. Oak spice sinks into the palate, framing the roasted raspberry and cardamom flavors, set atop a pleasantly rocky texture. **94 Points** – *M.K. July 2021*

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine

Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Chalone 2019

Pinot Noir is regarded by many to be the red variety most revealing of the site in which it grown and, though in all honesty we find that notion to be a little too dismissive of varieties such as Syrah and Cabernet, among others to do the same, there is no question but that this wine speaks with a slightly different voice than its mates. Very generously fruited and expressive of Pinot's cherry-like fruit, it shows a distinctive streak of stony, slightly minerally "spice," and is a little sturdier in build than its Fulcrum siblings. Without being hard or conspicuously tannic, it assumes a more structured stance that commends an extra bit of age, and we expect it to approach its peak in some five or six years and evolve nicely for at least as many more. **91 Points** - *June 2021*

PinotFile

2016 Fulcrum Brousseau Vineyard Chalone Appellation Pinot Noir

Dark garnet color in the glass. The rustic aromas of peat and timber combine with demure aromas of black fruits. Mid weight plus blackberry and cassis flavors have a noticeable earthy clay pitch. Velvety in the mouth with toned tannins typical of this vineyard that are supportive rather than foreboding. There is a nimble touch of oak and enough acidity to bless the sappy fruit with juiciness and vibrancy. The finish is very long and succulent. This is a terroir-driven wine that is quite recognizable to me after tasting multiple vintages. Even better when tasted the following day exhibiting more mellow tannins. Decant or hold for a year or two in bottle. **94; Extraordinary -** *William Gaffney, April 2018*

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2016 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). The oak is still showing prominently throughout this young bottling, but it has all the bones to make for a compelling sip for the next decade or so. Aromas of black raspberry sorbet and smoke lead into a palate of snappy red fruit, white pepper, star anise and clove. Be patient and this will smooth out nicely. **92 Points, *Cellar Selection.*** *—Matt Kettman May 2018*

Burghound

Fulcrum 2016 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). The dark berry fruit, spice and plum scents are to be appreciated. There is an almost creamy mid-palate textured to the medium-bodied flavors that possess admirably good amounts of dry extract before culminating in a firm, dusty and again borderline drying finish. The underlying material appears to be of sufficiently good quality and the structural elements seem to have adequate phenolic maturity such that this should come together if allowed some patience. **90 Points** — *Allen Meadows. June 2018*

PinotFile

2015 Fulcrum Brousseau Vineyard Chalone Appellation Pinot Noir

14.1% alc.,103 cases, $60. Clones 113, 114, 115 and Mt. Eden. Aged 11 months in French oak barrels, 40% new. Bottled unfined and unfiltered. ·Moderately dark reddish purple color in the glass. Enviable aromas of dusty black cherry, earth, stone and iron are followed on the palate by mid weight flavors of fresh black cherry and red currant with an earthy thread in the background. Graceful tannins, impeccable balance and a purposeful finish replete with cherry aroma. Still superb when tasted the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle indicating potential for longevity. *Score:* **93; Outstanding** - *William Gaffney, April 2017*

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2015 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone)
Incredibly suave dark strawberry and cherry aromas meld with chocolate and dusty earth notes on the nose of this bottling from one of the appellation's largest vineyards. The palate is more tightly wound, offering dried thyme, bay leaf and peppercorn instead of opulent fruit. **92 Points Excellent; Highly recommended** *-Matt Kettmann, April 2017*

Wine Enthusiast
Fulcrum 2014 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone)
Frozen strawberry and black-raspberry sorbet elements mesh with sandalwood spice and a cinnamon-chiffon touch on the elegant nose of this bottling. The palate offers tightly wound raspberry, slate and thyme touches. This will age for years. **91 Points Excellent; Highly recommended** *-Matt Kettmann, February 2017*

PinotFile
2014 Fulcrum Brousseau Vineyard Chalone Appellation Pinot Noir Dark reddish purple hue in the glass. Earthbound aromas of boysenberry and blackberry with a hint of oil slick. Smooth on the palate, but husky in character, with mid weight plus flavors of purple and black berries. This vineyard tends to produce a highly structured wine, and the tannins are evident but supportive without being intrusive in this wine. The finish is replete with gorgeous purple fruit that seems to persist for over half a minute. **92; Outstanding**- *Rusty Gaffney, August 2016*

PinotReport
2013 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
Medium ruby color; savory cherry and plum aromas with spice undertones; dark cherry and berry flavors with notes of spice, cola and minerals; good structure and balance; long finish. Savory and spicy Pinot with complex flavors. **92 Points Outstanding-** *Greg Walter, March 2016*

Beverage Dynamics
Fulcrum 2013 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone)
The nose displays some of that wild, smoky, earthy pinot noir funkiness that pinotphiles adore. This is a medium-to-full-bodied red featuring dark, spicy berry flavors folded into a bed of stony minerals. The substantial finish reveals understated notes of earth and mocha. **93 Points** *February 2016*

Wine Enthusiast
Fulcrum 2013 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone)
Hearty aromas of baking spices, roasted fennel, ginger and light licorice give nuance to dried cherry, cranberry, beef bourguignon and sweet onion scents on this wine from the eastside of the Salinas Valley. The palate is all about exotic spice, from sandalwood and myrrh to oregano, thyme, marjoram and black cardamom, all hanging on a lush, dark-fruit core. **93 Points Excellent; Highly recommended** *-Matt Kettmann, December 2015*

PinotFile
2013 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Moderately light reddish purple color in the glass. The satiny texture really stands out in this mid weight wine featuring red cherry fruit framed by firm, but integrated, fine-grain tannins. The most elegant of the four 2013 Fulcrum vineyard-designates, but also the most tannic which

is typical of this vineyard. The nose still had not blossomed the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle, but the palate was more pleasing with softer tannins."
90 Points; Outstanding
-Rusty Gaffney, July 12, 2015

Wine Review Online
2012 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"**I liked the 2011 wines by David Rossi, and this vintage represents yet another step forward**. From a vineyard that combines limestone soil and cool climate, David brings us this deep, full bodied expression. Black cherry, blueberry, damp earth, hibiscus and spice are richly intertwined in this wine that's very approachable now. I paired this very successfully with pork tenderloin in a cranberry, onion, fig and balsamic sauce. Well done!" **93 Points**
-Rich Cook, November 2014

Burghound
2012 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"There is just enough reduction to partially mask the more deeply pitched dark berry fruit aromas that grudgingly reveal notes of sandalwood and plum. **The suave, round and sappy medium weight flavors are borderline opulent yet there is no heaviness thanks to the fine intensity** that
continues onto the sappy and quite firmly structured finish; indeed this could aptly be described as bold and robust." **90 Points**
-Allen Meadows, April 2015

Restaurant Wine
"**A quartet of very good 2013 wines from this Pinot Noir specialist"**
2013 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"The Brosseau Pinot is also excellent: Ripely flavored, full bodied, and well balanced; a supple, moderately rich wine with a very long and lightly tannic finish, tasting of cherry, plum, blueberry jam, pepper, and oak." **4 Stars: Excellent quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended**
-Ronn Wiegand, August 2015

PinotFile
"My favorite Pinot Noirs for the year"
2012 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Distinctly darker in color with a deep purple tone. The nose is rich with aromas of blackberry jam, ollaliberry, spice and campfire. Although rich with serious extract, **the wine is beautifully balanced** and caressing with husky, but not overbearing tannins. The delicious flavors of dark berries, currants, and plum are juicy and persist on the expansive finish that echoes with waves of earthbound dark fruits. **This is a terroir-driven wine and clearly the best I have ever had from this vineyard**. Brousseau Pinot Noir is typically black fruited with imposing tannins, but this wine is tamed and refined. Hats off to David! Even better the following day with a smoother presence." **94 Points; Extraordinary**
-Rusty Gaffney, December 2014

Wine Enthusiast
2012 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"**New Jersey home-winemaker-turned-California-Pinot-pro** David Rossi delivers a delicious wine from the eastside of the Salinas Valley, with umami-meets-floral aromas of wild strawberry-clove mousse, violet-infused soy sauce and eucalyptus shavings. Ripe flavors of raspberry and blackberry get lifted by nutmeg, allspice and pine, with a tart, bitter cranberry-skin note on the finish." **94 Points: Superb; A great achievement**
-Matt Kettmann, April 2015

Wine Review Online
Recalibrating My Pinot Noir Benchmarks
"Thanks to David, **I discovered a winery that was new to me, and well worth knowing**. I tasted six impressive Pinot Noir wines from four different terroirs in California. And in the process, I re-discovered the Chalone appellation as a unique site for impressive Pinot Noir. **I recommend any Pinot from Fulcrum Wines – whether Fulcrum label or On Point – that you are able to get your hands on. Pinot Noir aficionados deserve to know about these wines**."
2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Only when I tasted the Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot did I appreciate the Chalone area Pinots. That wine was a full-bodied, richly-textured Pinot, soft but somewhat gripping on the tongue from delicate, fine-grained tannins. Its understated aromas and flavors suggested spices, smoke, cedar and dark berry fruits. **The wine's finish was rich and almost endless**. I perceived a chunkiness of style, an earth-driven Pinot, akin to Pommard. Although I personally prefer more ethereal Pinots such as Volnay, the authenticity of what I perceived to be the terroir expression in the Chalone AVA wine captivated me." **94 Points**
-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, November 2013

Burghound
2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"This is also extremely pretty with moderately pitched dark berry fruit aromas that display background hints of anise and sandalwood. The mid-weight and delicious flavors offer a rounded mouth feel before terminating in a dusty and ever-so-mildly austere finish. I like the persistence and while this could be drunk now I would advise allowing at least 2 to 3 years of cellaring for the austerity to dissipate." **90 Points; Outstanding. Worth a special effort to purchase and cellar and will provide memorable drinking experiences**
-Allen Meadows, April 2014

PinotFile
2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Moderate reddish-purple color in the glass. Aromas of dark red cherries, raspberries, pomegranates, spice and oak. The flavors replicate the nose and have appeal, but lack intensity. Muscular but not aggressive tannins dictate the texture which is typical of this site. A rather elegant fruit expression of this vineyard reflective of the vintage."
-Rusty Gaffney, June 2013

PinotReport
2012 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Deep ruby color; dense, intense aromas of herbs and plum; deep, dense cherry and plum flavors with toasty notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep, dense Pinot with **greatcomplexity** just waiting for a good hour or two of air." **93 Points, Smart Buy! Outstanding, approaching the best**
-Greg Walter, July 2014

Restaurant Wine

2012 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"The Brousseau bottling is intensely flavored and full bodied; a ripe, crisp, lightly oaked wine with a very long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of blueberry, red currant, cranberry, and toast."

3+ out of 5 Stars: Very good quality for its type, style, and price. Has distinctive character and positive attributes. Recommended

-Ronn Wiegand, April 2015

Wine & Spirits

Year's Best Pinot Noir

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"This feels overcharged at first, carrying the sanguine flavor of beetroot and freshly turned soil, the tannins ferrous and gripping. But the earthiness feels tied to a place; it's not hard to connect this pinot to Chalone's spare granite and limestone soils. With time a red plum skin-spiciness fills the wine's imposing frame. Its savory heft and minerality would match fried chicken livers with a squeeze of lemon." **92 Points; Exceptional examples of their type**

-Luke Sykora, April 2014

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences

New Pinot Star in Ascendancy

"Rossi's wine brand, Fulcrum, is **a stellar new entrant to U.S. PN ranks because of superb quality.** Each vineyard-designated wine is a unique statement, which is seen when you taste all the wines side by side … **the aromas, tastes, and structures of the wines are near-perfect and much better than most higher-priced PNs.** The key to all these wines is the finesse they show without lacking any of the depth of fruit and richness that will be a part of each wine in a year or more … **each wine is so stellar that they are destined to become impossible to find in a year or two—when the word gets out.**"

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Dramatic aroma of wild cherry, spice, and a Burgundian note not unlike Gevrey-Chambertin. Deep and full-flavored and huge potential." **Exceptional**

-Dan Berger, October 2013

1WineDude

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Saluting Pommard w/ 1 hand, flicking it a playful, competitive bird w/ the other."

-Joe Roberts, January 2014

PinotReport

"For David and Christinna Rossi, founders of
Fulcrum Wines, the metaphor of a fulcrum being a point of balance for a lever is what their Pinot venture is all about. They strive for elegance and balance in their wines."

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Medium-deep ruby color; deep, earthy aromas with cherry and plum notes; complex, rich plum and cherry flavors with earth and pepper notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy, complex, dense Pinot with nice structure. Needs time in the glass to open up." **91 Points**

-Gregory Walter, April 2013

Michael Cervin on Twitter

"**Taken off guard** by **Fulcrum 2011 Pinot Noir** from Chalone in Monterey Wines region. **A terrific little number**…"

-Michael Cervin, January 2014

The New Jersey Star-Ledger

Jersey Winemaker's Affair with California Pinot Noir

"None of the Fulcrum wines showed signs of alcohol or candied aroma or flavor, flaws that many enology-schooled winemakers repeatedly make with pinot noir. **Rossi has submerged himself in the art of making pinot noir and vineyard selections, and as he sank into the wine world he never lost his balance**."

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Resounding black fruit aroma and flavors and a mineral backbone recall the wines of Pommard. The Chalone appellation rests high in California's Gabilan Mountains near Pinnacles National Monument; granite and limestone soils yield wines with substantial mouth feel and aging potential. **Rossi captures all those elements.**"

-John Foy, March 2014

Snooth

2010 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Deep crimson and purple hues. Earth, desert sage, spice, anise and berry compote on the nose. Dark berries, spice, and dried hay on the palate. Full bodied with excellent acid and tannin balance. Long intense finish. Age worthy and substantial." **90+ Points**

-Gregory Dal Piaz, 2012

The Tasting Panel

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Smooth, lush and dense with meaty notes and good intensity; rich and bursting with wild cherry, spice and raspberry; deep and generous with a long, vivid finish." **92 Points; Outstanding**

-Anthony Dias Blue, January 2014

Wine Enthusiast

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"A thick, rich Pinot, broodingly closed despite a peacock's tail of red berries and currants that fans out across the palate. It finishes long and spicy. While the tannins are significant, they're soft and charming." **91 Points, Cellar Selection; Excellent, Highly recommended**

-Steve Heimoff, September 2013

RJ on Wine

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Dark cherry red color; soft, berry, oak nose; berry, blackberry, oak palate; medium-plus finish." **90+ Points**

-Richard Jennings, September 2013

HoseMaster of Wine

"As for Fulcrum, **if you like Pinot Noir that is intent on purity and delicacy, on aromatics and subtlety, on the conversation between winemaker and vineyard, on Pinot Noir as the prettiest girl in the room, I think you'll like Fulcrum Wines. They're certainly worthy of your attention**, and I suspect they will emerge from a bit of cellaring, say six or eight years, with even more depth and complexity."

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Hard to find limestone soils in California wine regions, but the Chalone appellation has plenty. They yield wines of uncommon and distinctive beauty, as they do in Burgundy. And **this was my favorite of the Fulcrum Four**. Spicy and dark fruit dominate, and while it ends up being another aroma-driven Pinot Noir, it takes a lot longer for this wine to open up. It was far prettier the second day, and the blackberry/raspberry fruit was joined by a nice herbal presence, lavender, I thought, a dash of pepper, and thyme. My feeling is that the limestone soils contribute a vibrancy to the fruit that's unique. The wines seem more alive. And it's structure is more seamless that the others, the tannins more aligned, and that also contributes to its sense of grace. **I just adored this wine**."

-Ron Washam, July 2013

Wine Review Online

2011 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Here's a forward, berry driven Pinot Noir that is soft and approachable right now. A silky mouthfeel sets you up for flavors of blackberry, cherry, raspberry and a bit of blueberry, with light spice and some oak toast adding interest. It's a pleasure to drink by itself, or try pairing it with mild cheeses after giving it a brief decant." **92 Points**

-Rich Cook, January 2014

PinotReport

2010 Fulcrum Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Deep ruby color; deep earthy aromas with some black cherry notes; deep, tight, dark cherry flavors with earthy, pepper notes; some tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep, interesting Pinot that will reward a good hour plus of air." **91 Points**

-Gregory Walter, September 2012