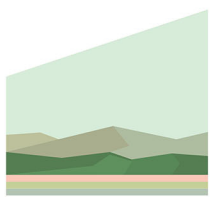


# L.M. Archer

## The Hedonistic Taster: More California Wines

L.M. Archer / June 29, 2019 / California wine, Wine Tasting



EDEN RIFT  
VINEYARDS

First planted in 1849, it claims fame as one of California's oldest vineyards, and comprises mostly calcareous soils.

Current owner and San Francisco native Christian Pillsbury purchased the former *Pietra Santa* winery in 2017, renaming it Eden Rift.

The name "Eden Rift" pays homage back to homeboy John Steinbeck's classic novel "East of Eden," with a nod to nearby San Andreas Fault.

The winery nests within the Cienega Valley, under the shadow of the Gavilan Mountain Range, and within 20 miles of the cool breezes of Monterey Bay.

### TASTING NOTES:

**Wine:** Eden Rift Terraces Pinot Gris - Cienega Valley  
**Vintage:** 2017 | **Alcohol:** 14.1%  
**Robe:** *Oeil de perdrix* (pale pink) hue.  
**Nose:** Tangy aromas of stone fruit, citrus and sea breeze.  
**Bouche:** What the what?! \$32 bucks for a Pinot Gris?! Actually, quite a bargain, considering Eden Rift contains perhaps California's only terraced planting of Pinot Gris in the state. Rarity aside, the wine merits the price tag. Quality. Percision. Freshness. This Pinot Gris stands out for its elevated, well-structured, poised expression.

**Wine:** Eden Rift Estate Rose of Pinot Noir - Cienega Valley  
**Vintage:** 2018 | **Alcohol:** 13.8%  
**Robe:** Clear coral robe.  
**Nose:** Intoxicating aromas of salt air, soft florals, and rose petal.  
**Bouche:** Complex interwoven notes of kefir lime, calcare, pink grapefruit, and a delightful saline backbone. Light body, exquisite acids, discrete tannins, lilted finish. Simply gorgeous.

**Wine:** Eden Rift Estate Chardonnay - Cienega Valley  
**Vintage:** 2017 | **Alcohol:** 14.2%  
**Robe:** Pale gold hue.  
**Nose:** Aromas of *fleurs blanches* and citrus, with a slight hint of oak.  
**Bouche:** Golden apple, comice pear, meyer lemon on the bouche. Medium body, creamy texture, solid structure, slightly toasty finish. For those who prefer richer Chardonnays.

**Wine:** Eden Rift Reserve Chardonnay - Cienega Valley  
**Vintage:** 2017 | **Alcohol:** 14.1%  
**Robe:** Pristine lemon robe.  
**Nose:** Marine air, yellow flowers, pear, slight lime flower.  
**Bouche:** Lemon-lime, stone fruit on the bouche, with a taut saline core. Light-to-medium body, sublime structure, well-balanced fulcrum between acids and tannins, lovely texture. If Steinbeck crafted wine instead of books, this would be his opus magnum. This wine posits a brilliant sense of place on the palate that renders a sense of awe for the under-rated Monterey wine region.

**Wine:** Eden Rift Estate Pinot Noir - Cienega Valley  
**Vintage:** 2017 | **Alcohol:** 14.2%  
**Robe:** Clarion ruby robe.  
**Nose:** Heady notes of savory red fruit (cranberry, pomegranate).  
**Bouche:** Crunchy red cranberry, chalk, and dark cherry couche. Light-medium body. Solid structure, concise finish.

**Wine:** Eden Rift Terraces Pinot Noir - Cienega Valley  
**Vintage:** 2017 | **Alcohol:** 14.2%  
**Robe:** Inky-tinged ruby robe.  
**Nose:** Brooding blue and black fruited nose, with a snarl of spice.  
**Bouche:** Ferocious burlled blackberry and dark red fruit on the bouche. Light-to-medium body, with a tensile core of acidity, bright minerality, and a strong finish. Checks all the right boxes regarding balance, structure, and the suitability for aging.