

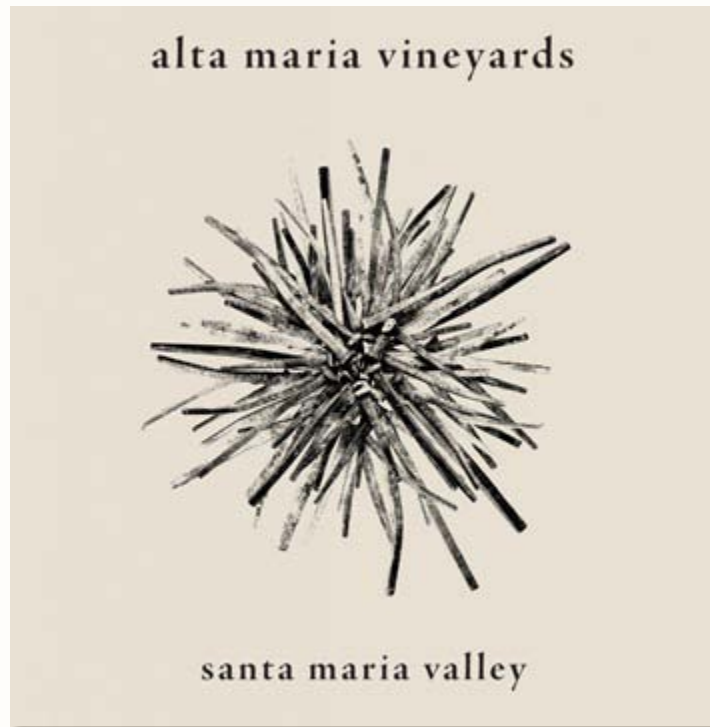
Vint-ed

A wine critic's sips and swirls, by Edward Deitch

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Sips: A roundup of notable new wines from France, California and Argentina

Since I've been leaning heavily toward wine news in recent weeks, I thought I would share some exciting new releases that will make for excellent spring and summer drinking. With one exception, all the wines are under \$20. Also of note, given my piece earlier this week about alcohol levels, four of the five wines here are under 14 percent, which, no doubt, is part of why I enjoyed them.



Alta Maria Vineyards 2009 Chardonnay Santa Maria Valley, California. \$28. This superb chardonnay from Santa Barbara County shows perfect balance, with pear, white peach, orange and lime, plus subtle vanilla and cream notes. Oak is seamlessly integrated. The fruit was sourced from the famed Bien Nacido and Solomon Hills Vineyards and the wine bears their unmistakable signature. Alcohol is 14.1 percent.

About Vint-ed

Vint-ed is a great place to find reviews of memorable new wines and news and commentary on wine and food by Edward Deitch, MSNBC.com wine columnist from 2002 to 2010, 2007 James Beard Foundation Journalism Award winner for multi-media writing on wine and a 2008 James Beard nominee for his appearances as a wine expert on NBC's Today show. Ed has also written about wine for Reuters and the New York Sun, serves on tasting panels at Wine & Spirits Magazine and conducts panel discussions as a moderator at wine events. Vint-ed doesn't rate or score wines, preferring to describe why wines stand out in honest, contextual and highly understandable reviews.

2007 Winner, 2008 Nominee

