

# La Crema: Cool wines from cooler parts of Wine Country

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Amid the dark forest of 100-foot redwood trees La Crema is in one of the coolest parts of Sonoma County. There, sisters Laura Jackson Giron and Jennifer Jackson, with winemaker Melissa Stackhouse, produce cool-weather varieties of chardonnay and pinot noir.

La Crema is a small family winery with vineyards spread around other cool areas, including Anderson Valley and Carneros. Stackhouse specializes in the winemaking style of France's cool Burgundy area, fermenting the grapes in oak barrels, using secondary malolactic fermentation to soften the wines and make them more complex.

Highly recommended:

2007 La Crema "Nine Barrel" Chardonnay, Russian River Valley: a big wine, with 14 percent alcohol; ripe and rich and creamy, with powerful baked fruit flavors; \$70.

2008 La Crema Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley: black cherry and bittersweet chocolate aromas and flavors; lush and ripe; \$38.

2007 Frei Brothers Reserve Sauvignon Blanc, Russian River Valley: aromas and flavors of cut grass, minerals and citrus; crisp and lively; \$20.

Recommended:

2007 La Crema Chardonnay, Los Carneros: lively citrus aromas, with flavors of toasty oak and caramel; rich, creamy; \$30.

2007 La Crema Pinot Noir, Los Carneros: black raspberry and mocha aromas and flavors; rich and ripe; \$38.

2007 La Crema Nine Barrel Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley: big and rich, with black plum and cinnamon flavors, creamy, with ripe tannins; \$90.