

# Wine: California Dreamin'

By Andy Cronshaw

Andy Cronshaw heads to the independent merchants for a true taste of the Golden State



## Marimar Estate Wines

Californian wine-maker Marimar Torres is the sister of Miguel Torres, head of the Spanish wine empire.

Her wines make full use of the cooler conditions on the coast where she has organic vineyards in the Russian River Valley.

**Marimar Estate Don Miguel Vineyard Albariño Russian River Valley 2012 (£27.99 [www.vintagemarque.com](http://www.vintagemarque.com), John Armit Wines**

**Vintage Marque)**

Albariño is better known as a Spanish variety which thrives in the rainy north of Spain and Portugal. Here in Don Miguel it bursts with the same vitality. The floral aromas are matched by the lime citrus notes while the palate is taut and mineral with a very long finish.

**Marimar Estate Don Miguel Vineyard Acero Chardonnay 2012 (£26.49 John Armit, Last Drop Wines, The Wine Shop)**

Acero means steel in Spanish and accordingly this wine has been made without the use of oak. It's a wine of wonderful purity and elegance where the tropical flavours are kept in check by a crisp backbone of acidity.

**Marimar Estate Mas Cavalls Pinot Noir, Dona Margarita Vineyard, Sonoma 2010 (£34.49 John Armit Wines, Vintage Marque )**

This wine is a classic example of how the fog rolling in off the Pacific makes for ideal Pinot Noir conditions. Fine dark cherry and red berry aromas mingle with savoury spices. It's rounded, generous and sensuous in the mouth.

**Marimar Estate Cristina Pinot Noir Don Miguel Vineyard 2009 (£42.49 John Armit, Vintage Marque)**

Named after Marimar's daughter Cristina, this Pinot is classic Californian Pinot with a raspberry nose and hints of aromatics. The palate is silky and delicious.