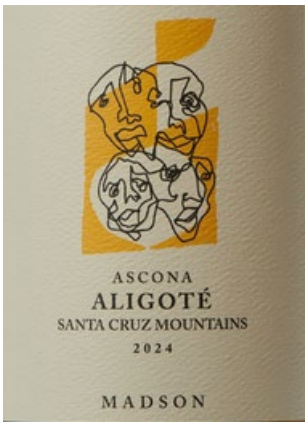
Madson
Santa Cruz Mountains



Aligoté, Ascona Vineyard 2024

Grown at 2,450 ft of elevation on ancient marine sedimentary deposits of loosely consolidated sandstone and siltstone. Fruit is crushed and given 1–2 hours of maceration, then gently pressed and fermented with ambient yeasts in an old French oak barrel. Aged on the fine lees in barrel for 9 months and then moved to stainless steel for two more months. 25 cases produced.

Aromas of nougat, white flowers, lemon pith and warm hay. Crisp, bright flavours of lemon pith and lemon peel mix with a touch of dried herbs and wet-chalkboard minerality. Excellent acidity, with a hint of toasted nuts in the finish. Very tasty. 2026-2032.

17/20 pts—Alder Yarrow, jancisrobinson.com, July 2026

The 2024 Aligoté Ascona is taut, chiseled and very textural. Leesy tones of mint, eucalyptus, crushed rocks and lemon pith settle in with tension and a real nip of bitterness. Fermented and aged from 11 months in neutral oak, the 2024 is an attractively textural wine and a compelling case for the variety in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

93 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

Chardonnay, Santa Cruz Mountains 2024

Understated but nicely concentrated, the 2024 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains) is a blend of fruit from six vineyards. There's tons of coastal, cool-climate character here, most perceptible in the wine's pixelated, chiseled feel. White flowers, oyster shell, white pepper and green apple lend a distinct raciness. This is all about cut and minerality It's compelling through and through.

93 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

The 2024 Chardonnay is a blend of six favorite sites of varying elevations and soil types, including Toyon, Marine Terrace, and Ascona, from an amazing vintage that saw a few welcome heat spikes that balanced out the year's coolness. Racy acidity leads the way, boosting the light-bodied elements of green apple, white flowers, and subtle oak that sit over textured complexity and length. Barrel-fermentation on native yeast and nearly a year in neutral French oak keep it crisp, focused, and refined. Drink now through 2034.

95 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Chardonnay, Ascona Vineyard 2024

The 2024 Chardonnay Ascona Vineyard is the finest white wine I've tasted from Madson to date, delivering a compelling combination of ethereal lift, muscular density and impeccable precision from front to back. Stony, flinty and floral aromas emerge on the nose in a quiet yet persistent fashion, all rendered with crystal clarity that translates to a firm, satiny, focused and weightlessly concentrated mouthfeel. As I found through this set of wines from Madson, another degree of depth and punch arrives on the finish, with creamy undertones, measured acidity and a well-defined mineral core.

95 pts—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, October 2026

Tasted from tank just prior to bottling, the 2024 Chardonnay Ascona is impressively deep and layered, but it maintains the propulsive, coiled personality that carries through all the whites here. Shades of petrol, lime pith, white flowers and slate inflect an undercurrent of golden apple fruit. A feeling of power and weightless concentration builds with air. I really look forward to tasting this from bottle.

93-95 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

A grippy, textured tank sample from the cold vineyard planted in 2016, with a significant diurnal shift from elevation, the 2024 Chardonnay Ascona Vineyard is barrel fermented over 14 months on native yeasts, aging in 15% new French oak and another five months in stainless steel. There's tremendous freshness and verve to this light-bodied wine, a floral ethereal quality that's hard to resist. Look for it; it's unclear if Ascona Vineyard will continue to be a vineyard source in the future.

96-97 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Chardonnay, Arey Vineyard 2024

The 2024 Chardonnay Arey Vineyard leads with a beautifully airy bouquet of matchstick, orchard blossoms, citrus rinds and fennel, followed by a seamless, creamy mouthfeel enlivened by racy acidity. Despite its initially light, chiseled profile, the wine gains considerable breadth and density on the finish, lingering with weightless textural depth and saline overtones. It comes from a vineyard planted in 1991 and is one of the only wines in the Madson range to come from the North American plate rather than the Pacific.

94 pts—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, October 2026

The 2024 Chardonnay Arey is very compact and driven from start to finish. Minerality is the start of the show: crushed rocks, chalk, oyster shell and sea salt penetrate the mid-palate. There's not much fruit to speak of, but that happens to work well in the context of the style. Screaming acids maintain polish and avoid austerity—it's a tightrope walk here, but it all works out swimmingly.

92 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

Pinot Noir, Ascona Vineyard 2024

Produced from Pommard clones planted in 2000, the 2024 Pinot Noir Ascona Vineyard was fermented entirely whole-cluster and matured for 18 months in neutral wood. Displaying a light ruby color in the glass and leading with a delicate, savory bouquet with a core of red fruits, it continues with a lively, sculpted mouthfeel with a tensile core. The finish takes a soaring and saline turn, lingering long with spice-driven nuances and well-integrated, stem-derived tannins.

94 pts—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, October 2026

The 2024 Pinot Noir Ascona is deeply layered and plush, but also intensely mineral, savory and finely delineated. Cool-climate character comes through in spades. Layers of new leather, black cherry, juniper and bay laurel build with air as the wine continues to deepen in the glass. This is a cellar-worthy Pinot that will certainly pay dividends after a few years in bottle.

95 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

The 2024 Pinot Noir Ascona Vineyard saw 100% whole-cluster fermentation on native yeast, and then 18 months in larger-format neutral French oak. Medium-bodied, it has a tight, textural feel accented in forest floor, orange peel, and porcini mushroom, the site amply surrounded by conifers, which play along the palate in intriguing ways. Give this a few years to blossom further and enjoy best 2028-2034.

94 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Pinot Noir, Branciforte Creek Vineyard 2024

Among the most impressive wines I've tasted from Madson, the 2024 Pinot Noir Branciforte Creek Vineyard opens with a knockout, perfumed bouquet that gradually develops exotic spice accents amid the region's omnipresent coniferous flourishes. The palate is broad, silken and enveloping, culminating in an intense, chewy and persistent finish that lingers with retronasal floral notes and additional spicy flavors framed with filigreed tannins. As delicious as this is already, it merits a bit more time in bottle, and I can't wait to see how it develops.

95 pts—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, October 2026

Pinot Noir, Toyon Vineyard 2024

As impressive as the Branciforte bottling is, the 2024 Pinot Noir Toyon Vineyard takes the cake as the most multifaceted and memorable wine of this year's tasting with Madson. Produced from a mix of Pommard and Dijon clones, it is radically different on the nose than the neighboring Branciforte, with a decidedly herbal, savory and darker-fruited character that evolves rapidly in the glass. Utterly seamless, graceful and refined in the mouth, it closes with an incredibly long, deep finish framed by a spherical tannin structure that is nearly grainless in its precision and delineation.

96 pts—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, October 2026

A tank sample from a site planted in 2003, the 2024 Pinot Noir Toyon Vineyard is grippy and reductive right now, with a depth of small-berry intensity and dark brambly fruit. There's ample tannin and structure to go for decades, the dark-colored wine peppery and ethereal, with a hint of rose petal, cranberry, and pomegranate dusted in cardamom spice.

95-97 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Pinot Noir, Santa Cruz Mountains 2024

The 2024 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains) is a blend of five sites across the region. It's a dark, earthy wine that packs a bunch of intensity into its deceptively svelte frame. Petrichor, truffle, bitter cherry skin and white pepper paint a rustic, old-school picture, as do the fine, grippy tannins that grab ahold of the mouthwatering finish. Full of character, this is built for lovers of classically built Pinot Noir from across the Atlantic.

93 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

From multiple coastal vineyard sites.

This is exuberantly foresty, with a scent of crushed pine needles, leaf litter, pepper and smoke. The flavours continue in this savoury vein, piney and pillowy, with a mineral salinity informing the texture and a slightly bitter, amaro-like finish. Tense, compelling, ageable. Drink 2026-2038.

18/20 pts— Patrick Comiskey, jancisrobinson.com, May 6, 2026

A blend of vineyards like Toyon, Branciforte, Chamise, and others, some of which get 100% whole-cluster fermentation, others lower, the 2024 Pinot Noir is also a blend of clones, all of which are chosen for their ability to hold their acid. Textured and bright in crunchy red fruit, it's a light-bodied, purely focused, linear wine of refreshing complexity, given about a year in a majority of neutral French oak. Earthy, savory elements of forest and black tea dance around the edges. Drink now through 2034.

95 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Syrah, Marine Terrace 2024

The 2024 Syrah Marine Terrace is the first edition of this wine for Madson. It's all Serine clone Syrah done with 100% whole clusters in one neutral puncheon. A big kick of reduction requires quite a bit of vigorous swirling or a splash decant to blow off. When it does, what remains is a rich core of blackberry, cured olive, eucalyptus and pomegranate. A sweet, creamy mid-palate lends intrigue, but the 2024 is a very taut wine that will certainly be better with a few years to integrate its wood. Even then, I would suggest giving this an abundance of air.

92+ pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

Lean and herbaceous, this smells of violets and crushed berries. High-toned dark-plum fruit and floral character in equal measure. Its herbal notes carry over to the palate, where the texture is positively the definition of 'crunchy'– present, forward and lithe. It is perhaps a touch backward but it is young also, and should mellow and lengthen with age. Drink 2026-2038.

17.5/20 pts—Patrick Comiskey, jancisrobinson.com, May 6, 2026

Syrah, Ascona Vineyard 2024

A lighter hue in the glass than the regional "Côte Blonde" bottling, the 2024 Syrah Ascona Vineyard opens on a coy note compared to its counterpart, gradually unfurling black and blue fruits, camphor, green pepper and cardamom aromas with aeration. The site's signature combination of density and verve comes through on the palate; however, it delivers a deep, elastic, firm mouthfeel that flows seamlessly into a nimble, savory finish. I suspect this will blossom after a bit more time in the bottle and should age well through its first decade.

94+ pts—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, October 2026

Tasted from tank just prior to bottling, the 2024 Syrah Ascona is an exotic beauty in a polished, elegant package. The sweetness of the fruit is just so enticing. Chinese five spice, rose petal, ripe blueberry and white pepper saturate the palate, coming across as both velvety and vertical. Super-fine structure builds with air, leading to a long, texturally engaging finish. This is poised to be a very impressive wine.

94-96 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026