

PINOTREPORT

for people passionate about western pinot noir

ISSUE NO. 27

www.pinotreport.com

RELEASE DATE: 2/28/05

INSIDE

- **PINOT NEWS:** A label victory, a new venture and new digs for a Pinot veteran..... **2**
- **IN THE MARKET:** The latest Pinot reviews.... **3**
- **MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR:** 2 wines to add to your cellar **3, 6**
- **SMART BUYS:** 2 Pinots for you to buy and drink right now **3, 6**

are you
passionate
about
pinot?
get the
report.

See Page 10
To Order

Exciting Times For Pinot...

OK, SO “SIDEWAYS” DIDN’T SWEEP THE OSCARS this past weekend. Did anyone really think it would? Regardless of the end of the awards ride for this really interesting and fun movie, it’s still a big winner for everyone involved in making and selling Pinot Noir.

The big question remains: will the surge in Pinot Noir sales and interest apparently stimulated by the movie continue once the movie fades from the big screen into video stores?

My gut tells me that while “**Sideways**” was a **definite catalyst** in introducing a whole lot of new wine drinkers to Pinot Noir, it’s Pinot’s intrinsic “crowd pleaser” flavor profile that will keep people coming back for more. There’s just something really inviting about even the most simple Pinot Noir—great flavors, balance and a remarkable affinity for a huge range of foods—that other red wines just don’t have. My experience has been that **once someone tries Pinot Noir, they’ll keep drinking it.**

I’ll be asking this and other questions as I circulate around the **World of Pinot Noir** event later this week, and I’ll report back with some interesting opinions, and, no doubt, some great tasting notes to share with you as well.

In This Issue...

Because I’m off to World of Pinot Noir, I wanted to get this abbreviated issue out the door to you before I left. In this issue, we’ve got some simply terrific Pinots from **Babcock, David Bruce, Dierberg, Domaine Chandon, Dutton Estate, Flying Goat, Hanzell, Loring, Pisoni, Radio-Coteau, Sea Smoke and Talisman.**

As always, I thank you for your support and hope that you enjoy this latest issue.

--Gregory S. Walter, editor and publisher

Resveratrol OK On Wine Labels?

Willamette Valley Vineyards has what it believes to be the first federal government approval to list **resveratrol** content, an antioxidant, on a wine label. Labels for two of the winery's Pinot Noirs were approved and a third was rejected. The label for the **2002 Vintage Selection Pinot Noir** was approved to list resveratrol, while the label for the **2003 Whole Cluster Fermented Pinot Noir** also included context for why resveratrol is important: "Pinot noir develops a natural defense against botrytis (mold) in our moist, cool climate—the antioxidant resveratrol."

Willamette Valley's label for its **2004 Whole Cluster Pinot Noir** was rejected by the federal **Alcohol, Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)**. The agency ruled that "you may not make curative or therapeutic claims on labels or create misleading associations between the consumption of alcohol and health... Delete reference to the word 'resveratrol.'" The winery plans to appeal the TTB rejection.

"We have been careful to avoid making any health claims on the label and related materials associated with resveratrol and rather have focused on its presence and the reason for its presence in our wine," said **Jim Bernau**, winery founder and president. "Clearly, the two prior label approvals by the TTB confirm there must be at least one person within their own agency who agrees with our view."

"It is my hope that continued recognition by the public and public policy makers toward the unique attributes of wine will support legal changes which at a minimum allow wine producers to list antioxidants on the label," Bernau said.

Mahoney Returns With New Label

Carneros Pinot Noir Pioneer **Francis Mahoney** is back with a new brand and a new perspective. Mahoney, who sold his **Carneros Creek** brand several years ago to financier **William Hambrecht** and then resold the brand when Hambrecht's finances took a downturn, has launched **Mahoney Vineyards**.

Mahoney Vineyards will focus not only on Carneros Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, but also some interesting grape varieties that have been rarely seen in that region before. To name a few: **Barbera, Dolcetto, Garnacha, Nebbiolo, Sangiovese, Syrah, Tempranillo** and **Vermantino**.

Moshin Builds New Winery

Rick Moshin is building a new winery for his **Moshin Vineyards** brand on Westside Road in **Healdsburg**. The 17,000-square-foot, gravity-flow winery will produce up to 30,000 cases per year. Moshin plans to be open for the 2005 crush and will offer custom crush services to other winemakers.

[PNR]

PINOTREPORT

For People Passionate About Western Pinot Noir

Gregory S. Walter

Editor and Publisher

Michael Dotson, Contributing Editor

PinotReport (ISSN 1539-5197) is published monthly by PinotReport LLC, PO Box 2051, Sonoma, CA 95476. All contents Copyright © 2005 PinotReport LLC. All Rights Reserved. Short passages may be quoted without permission if proper credit is given to **PinotReport**.

To Subscribe

Subscriptions to **PinotReport** are available at \$75 for one year via online and \$125 for one year via print or fax. To subscribe, either use the form included with this issue, call 707-935-0326 or subscribe online at **pinotreport.com**.

Editorial Philosophy

PinotReport is an independent newsletter owned, written and published by Gregory S. Walter. All tastings unless otherwise noted are done blind by the Editor. Any and all opinions and analysis expressed in these pages unless otherwise noted belong to Gregory S. Walter, who has no financial involvement or connection whatsoever in the production, distribution or sales of wine.

Wine Samples

PinotReport accepts wine samples of **Pinot Noir** for its "In The Market" and special "Tasting Reports." All samples should be sent to the following address:

PinotReport

Attn: Gregory S. Walter
625 Ross Court
Sonoma, CA 95476
Tel: 707-935-0326

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

This Issue's Tasting Notes

All wines were tasted blind and scored before knowing anything other than that the general region they were from. My notes and comments follow.

CALIFORNIA

Babcock Winery & Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Grand Cuvee 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, savory spice notes with some cherry and plum and smoked meat; rich, full, plum and cherry, with some smoked meat, savory spices, nice texture, good structure and balance; long finish. Very nice style—Santa Rita Hills all through. Great texture and layers of flavor make this cry out for roasted meats.

678 cases made \$35 Score: 91

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Carneros Truchard Vineyard 2001

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, earthy, mushrooms, some chocolate cherry aromas; big, earthy, full forest floor flavors, some stewed cherry fruit, complex, toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. This is a big, deep Pinot that needs time in the bottle and glass to open up.

709 cases made \$40 Score: 87

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, earthy, sweet cherry aromas; big and full on the palate, lots of earthy, forest floor flavors, sweet red cherry, sweet oak notes, good structure and balance, toasty on finish. The sweet red cherry flavors balance the earthy notes to make a complex, pleasing Pinot.

2,700 cases made \$40 Score: 86

MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

"A truly amazing Pinot..."

Loring Wine Company

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2003

Deep ruby purple color; deep, berry/cherry aromas, earthy, pepper notes on nose; deep, intense cherry flavors, great spice and pepper notes, moderate tannin and toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. This is a remarkable Pinot with incredible juicy fruit, great balance and delicious flavors. Combine Brian Loring's winemaking touch and Peter Cargasacchi's fruit and you get a truly amazing Pinot.

125 cases made \$46 Score: 96

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Teac Mor Vineyard 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, earthy aromas, some dried plum fruit on nose; rich and full flavors, dried cherry and plum fruit, lots of earthy notes and toasty oak, good structure and balance, long finish. There's a lot of deep, complex flavors here—this Pinot needs time in the glass.

144 cases made \$45 Score: 91

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Santa Cruz Mountains 2001

Medium-deep ruby color; earthy, some fruit; earthy, big and full with some cherry fruit, oak mostly dominates the palate, long finish. This is a big style of Pinot with that needs considerable time to open up.

2,792 cases made \$35 Score: 88

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Santa Cruz Mountains 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; deep aromas of herbs, mint and some red fruit; big and intense, lots of stewed cherry fruit, good structure, deep and complex flavors with some herbs and forest floor; long finish. This is a very complex Pinot that needs a bunch of air before you can really enjoy it. Layers and layers of flavor come out if you just let it sit for awhile.

n/a cases made \$40 Score: 90

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Tondre Grapefield 2001

Medium-deep ruby color; deep and herbal aromas, some stewed cherry and sweaty notes on nose; big, herbal with stewed cherry flavors, lots of oak and earthy, forest floor flavors; good structure, long finish. Interesting style, lots of herbal flavors, and a serious dose of oak make this a big Pinot.

640 cases made \$40 Score: 88

SMART BUY!

"Deliciously intense..."

Three Saints

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2002

Deep ruby purple color; deep, concentrated, intense aromas of black cherry and plum, some spice and sweet oak notes; deep, intense, concentrated black cherry and plum flavors, spice and pepper notes, tannin and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Deliciously intense Pinot that has tons of flavor without the overbearing oak and tannin. From Dierberg Vineyards.

425 cases made \$20 Score: 92

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2001

Deep ruby color; deep black cherry, spice and some toasty oak on the nose; big, full with moderate tannin, lots of spice and blackberry and black cherry fruit, lush in the mouth; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich, ripe, spicy style of Pinot with a lot to like.

279 cases made \$45 Score: 91

David Bruce Winery

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2002

Deep ruby color; deep, stewed cherry aromas, some savory spice on nose; rich and full, lots of savory spice and stewed cherry flavors, moderate tannin and oak; good structure, long finish. Big and intense Pinot with a lot of toasty oak.

6,500 cases made \$27 Score: 87

Dierberg

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Dierberg Vineyard 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; bit closed, earthy, savory spice, some herbal notes on nose; big, deep, bit closed on palate, lots of cherry fruit, tannic, lots of toasty oak, great structure and balance; long finish. This is a big style of wine that will really benefit from time in the bottle and in the glass.

545 cases made \$33 Score: 91

Domaine Chandon

Pinot Noir Carneros Ramal Road Reserve 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; spicy, earthy, black cherry notes on nose; big, rich, full flavors of black cherry, spice, cinnamon, and a hint of clove; moderate toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Big and rich style of Pinot with a lot of complex flavors. A great achievement and a great Pinot for the table.

180 cases made \$45 Score: 93

Domaine Chandon

Pinot Noir Carneros 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; red cherry and spice on the nose; rich and juicy, lush red cherry fruit with cinnamon and other spicy flavors, sweet oak, good structure and well balanced, long finish. This is a bright, delicious Pinot with terrific balance. Another great example of winemaker Wayne Donaldson's deft touch with non-sparkling Pinot.

2,100 cases made \$29 Score: 92

Domaine Chandon

Pinot Meunier Carneros 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; spicy, earthy with some red

cherry aromas; rich and lush with lots of red cherry and a slight earthy flavor and some toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Great fruit flavors along with good acidity make this a delicious wine.

2,400 cases made \$29 Score: 91

Dutton Estate Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Thomas Road Vineyard 2002

Medium ruby color; some red cherry aromas, light spice on nose; complex, stewed red cherry flavors, some savory spices and a hint of smokiness, moderate oak, good structure and balance; lingering finish. This is a complex and interesting style—the reduced, stewed cherry flavors and savory notes make it a good wine for the table.

225 cases made \$40 Score: 88

Dutton Estate Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Jewell Block 2002

Medium ruby color; spicy, red cherry aromas with some forest floor and earthy notes; lush, rich red cherry fruit flavors with complex earthy, forest floor and cherry cola notes; moderate oak, good structure and balance, long finish. The rich and complex red cherry fruit and all of the other flavors make this a very interesting wine.

215 cases made \$48 Score: 90

Esterlina Vineyards

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley 2001

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, juicy red cherry aromas; rich, some spice, bright red cherry flavors, lean in mouth, some tannin, lingering finish. Bright and spicy, this is a great Pinot for light meals.

500 cases made \$30 Score: 87

Esterlina Vineyards

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dusty, red cherry aromas; big and full, tannic, some dusty, earthy and red cherry flavors, moderate oak, long finish. This is a big style of Pinot; the tannin just dominates the palate.

500 cases made \$30 Score: 84

Etude

Pinot Noir Carneros 2002

Deep ruby color; red cherry, spice and roses dominate the nose; rich, ripe black cherry flavors with hints of chocolate and cinnamon; some tannin and toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Terrific, rich style, lots to like here with complex flavors and good structure.

8,000 cases made \$40 Score: 91

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Flying Goat Cellars

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Dierberg Vineyard 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; rich cherry and plum aromas, sweet oak on nose; rich cherry and plum fruit, lots of juicy flavors, mouthwatering, moderate toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Beautiful fruit flavors, very nicely balanced. Great with salmon or pastas.

315 cases made \$32 Score: 92

Flying Goat Cellars

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Santa Rosa Ranch 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; subtle cherry, spice and sweet oak aromas; medium bodied, cherry and sweet oak flavors with some spice, good structure and balance, lingering finish. Lighter style of Pinot with delicious spice and cherry flavors.

129 cases made \$34 Score: 90

Greenwood Ridge Vineyards

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; some spicy, floral aromas with a hint of red cherry; spicy red cherry flavors with a hint of pepper, lean with some tannin, good structure, long finish. Lean, spicy style of Pinot that will pair well with lighter foods.

600 cases made \$25 Score: 85

Hanzell Vineyards

Pinot Noir Sonoma Valley 2000

Deep ruby color; deep, stewed cherry, earthy and smoky aromas; big, full and rich with lots of stewed cherry, earthy, cola flavors, good structure and balance, long finish. Big, earthy style of Pinot with great structure and lots of reduced, concentrated flavors.

840 cases made \$75 Score: 91

Loring Wine Company

Pinot Noir California The Llama 2003

Deep ruby purple color; deep aromas of savory spice, earth, smoky oak; rich, red cherry, savory spice, earthy flavors, sweet oak, moderate tannins, good structure and balance; long finish. Delicious red cherry flavors balanced with some savory spice flavors. The Llama is Brian Loring's first non-vineyard designated Pinot. He says it's not a reserve or anything like that, just a few barrels that he'll blend together into something fun, with a fun name and a story on the back label to match.

100 cases made \$46 Score: 91

Loring Wine Company

Pinot Noir Chalone Brosseau Vineyard 2003

Deep ruby purple color; deep, earthy, savory spice aromas;

About Our Tastings

Generally, there are two types of tastings that appear in each issue of **PinotReport**. The first are our regular "In The Market" tastings of Pinot Noirs new on the market. The second are our special "Tasting Reports" that focus on a particular appellation, producer or style.

How We Taste

We taste wine in small flights with usually no more than 12 wines in a tasting session. Duplicate wines are inserted in tastings to measure consistency.

All tasting unless otherwise noted is done blind by the Editor. Other tasters may participate, but their scores and comments are not part of the official tasting record. The tasting coordinator (who does not taste) arranges and bags all wines, which are then scored and comments recorded before bags are removed.

Our tastings are done under controlled, consistent conditions. We do not under any circumstances use tasting notes from large tasting events or other sub-optimal tasting venues in our published, scored tasting reports.

Wine Prices and Sourcing

Wine prices vary all around the country and can often vary

significantly within the same city. We make every effort to only publish a winery's suggested retail price. This price in some cases will be higher than those you can find in your local markets. The wines we taste either come from the wineries in the form of tasting samples (always finished bottles ready for market) or wines we purchase at retail or at the winery.

Our Wine Ratings

The wines we taste are rated using a 100-point rating system. We fully understand the ongoing debate over the use of the 100-point system and while we respect the right of those who simply despise the system to continue to do so, we believe that the scale has value when used with the accompanying tasting notes as a **relative guide** to wine quality that has the added benefit of **being familiar** and truly intuitive for most consumers.

Here is **PinotReport's 100-point scale**:

96-100	SUPERIOR; it doesn't get better.
90-95	OUTSTANDING; approaching the best
80-89	ABOVE AVERAGE; a fine Pinot.
70-79	AVERAGE; OK if it's all you have.
60-69	BELOW AVERAGE; not recommended.
50-59	UNDRINKABLE.

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

stewed plum fruit, earthy, savory notes, some tannin, moderate toasty oak, good structure and balance, lingering finish. Interesting style, with a lot of the reduced, stewed fruit flavors I like from the Chalone appellation.

200 cases made \$46 Score: 92

Loring Wine Company ***Pinot Noir Chalone Naylor Dry Hole Vineyard 2003***

Deep ruby purple color; deep earthy, spice and some smoked meat aromas; rich, deep stewed cherry and plum fruit, spice, smoked meat, sweet oak flavors, silky texture, good structure and balance, long finish. Delicious, rich Pinot with terrific flavors. This is a new 1.5 acre vineyard next to the Brosseau Vineyard in the Chalone AVA. It's name comes from the troubles that owner Duncan Naylor had finding water on his property—he drilled several dry wells before coming up with one that would produce any water.

25 cases made \$46 Score: 93

Loring Wine Company ***Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003***

Deep ruby purple color; earthy, rich, smoked meat aromas; lush, juicy cherry fruit, complex smoked meat, earthy notes, lots of spice and sweet oak; great structure and balance, long finish. Beautiful, rich and silky, this Pinot has flavor and finesse. There's no question that this is one of the best Pinots from Garys' Vineyard I've had from the 2003 vintage.

375 cases made \$46 Score: 94

Loring Wine Company ***Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2003***

Deep ruby purple color; deep, rich, good spice, cherry and smoked meat aromas; concentrated black cherry and plum flavors, savory spice, smoked meat flavors, silky texture, sweet oak flavors, good structure and balance, long finish. This is a

dense, deep style with beautiful flavors that remains incredibly silky on the palate.

250 cases made \$46 Score: 94

Loring Wine Company ***Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard 2003***

Deep ruby purple color; spice, savory, cherry aromas with some toasty oak on the nose; full, rich, cherry flavors, spice and sweet oak, some tannin, good structure and balance, long finish. Bigger style, good rich flavors, needs time in the bottle and glass.

200 cases made \$46 Score: 91

Loring Wine Company ***Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2003***

Deep ruby purple color; deep, closed cherry, berry oak aromas; big, rich, full with deep and closed cherry, berry flavors, pepper, moderate tannin, toasty oak; great structure and balance, long finish. Incredible depth, incredible balance; this Pinot needs a bunch of time in the bottle to open up.

250 cases made \$46 Score: 94

Loring Wine Company ***Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2003***

Please see "Make Room In The Cellar!" on page 3.

Lucia ***Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2002***

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, spice, herbal, earth and some cherry aromas; rich, sweet oak, lots of cherry, cola and earthy flavors; deep, layers of flavor; good structure and great balance, long finish. Rich, ripe style of Pinot with just enough

SMART BUY!

"A lighter style..."

Sebastopol Vineyards ***Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2001***

Medium ruby color; red cherry, spicy and smoky aromas; light, fruity, bright flavors with some spicy and smoky notes; light on the oak as well; good structure and balance, lingering finish. Lighter style of Pinot with bright, red cherry flavors.

2,327 cases made \$20 Score: 86

MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

"An Incredible Pinot..."

Radio-Coteau ***Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy 2003***

Medium-deep ruby purple color; very aromatic with floral, spice, smoked meat and black cherry notes; big, complex, rich, black cherry, spicy flavors with a touch of smoky oak and floral notes, great structure and balance, long finish. I think that Eric Sussman is really in sync with the Savoy Vineyard—I like this wine even more than I liked the 2002 version. The aromatics are wonderful; the flavors even better. Incredible Pinot.

440 cases made \$45 Score: 95

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

earthy complexity to make it another very interesting wine from the Pisoni family.

480 cases made \$37.50 Score: 93

Murphy-Goode

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2002

Medium ruby color; deep cherry berry aromas with some oak notes; rich cherry, berry flavors with some spice and toasty oak, and a lingering finish. Kind of one-dimensional with good fruit flavors.

1,439 cases made \$30 Score: 86

Ortman Family Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Barbara Counry 2002

Medium-deep ruby purple color; earthy, herbal aromas with black cherry notes; rich, deep flavors of black cherry, earth and herbs, moderate toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Big but balanced style of Pinot

500 cases made \$34 Score: 88

Paradise Ridge

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2002

Deep ruby purple color; savory spices and herbs on the nose; stewed fruit, herbal, savory flavors, moderate toasty oak, long finish. Big, herbal style with a good dose of toasty oak.

207 cases made \$29 Score: 82

Paradise Ridge

Pinot Noir Sonoma County Elizabeth & Henry's Vineyard 2002

Deep ruby purple color; some herbal, dill notes with hints of cherry on the nose; big, tannic, herbal and dill flavors with slight cherry fruit; lots of toasty oak, long finish. This is a bigger style of Pinot with lots of herbal notes and toasty oak.

244 cases made \$29 Score: 82

Pisoni

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2002

Deep ruby purple color; spice, black cherry, pepper, sweet oak notes on the nose; big, rich, deep flavors, intense black cherry, spice, some earth and smoked meat, moderate tannin and sweet oak, great structure and terrific balance; long finish. This wine is so well balanced that even as intense as it is, it still has a silky mouthfeel. Terrific Pinot just looking for a great meal!

382 cases made \$60 Score: 94

Radio-Coteau

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy 2003

Please see "Make Room In The Cellar!" on page 6.

Radio-Coteau

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Hellenthal 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep spicy, cinnamon and black cherry aromas; rich and full, deep, and complex black cherry, earthy, mushroom and spicy flavors with sweet oak, great structure and balance; long finish. This is Eric Sussman's second vintage from the Hellenthal Vineyard, located on a coastal ridge between Fort Ross and Cazadero. Again, he's produced an amazing wine that not only shows what Eric calls "site expression," but makes a strong case for the argument that these coastal vineyards are producing some of the best Pinot in the West.

100 cases made \$40 Score: 95

Radio-Coteau

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast La Neblina 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, spicy, earthy, cinnamon notes on nose; deep cherry fruit with notes of cinnamon, cola and earthy flavors, great structure and acidity, well balanced with a long finish. A blend of several selected Sonoma Coast vineyards, "La Neblina" (Spanish for fog) is a deep and interesting Pinot with great balance and a delicate, silky mouhtfeel.

220 cases made \$36 Score: 93

Radio-Coteau

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Marsh 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep aromas with floral, spice, earth and coffee aromas; deep black cherry fruit with earthy, coffee nuances, sweet oak, great structure and balance, long finish. From the 1.3 acre Marsh Vineyard on the southern slope of a coastal ridge west of Occidental, this pretty Pinot is a classic expression of great Sonoma Coast Pinot character.

74 cases made \$40 Score: 94

Sea Smoke

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Botella 2002

Deep ruby purple color; deep, concentrated aromas of black cherry, spice and toasty oak; big, deep flavors, concentrated black cherry, cola, some pepper, spice, moderate tannin, good structure and a long finish. Big, gutsy style of Pinot that needs some substantial time to open up. You'd better have a good steak ready when it does open up!

1,200 cases made \$25 Score: 92

Sea Smoke

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Southing 2002

Deep ruby purple color; lots of black cherry and plum aromas, intense spicy notes; big, rich, full, deep flavors of black cherry, spice, cola, some pepper and lots of sweet oak; good structure

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

and balance; long finish. WOW! Big and intense style that is so balanced that you almost don't notice how big it is. Grill up a steak or roast some pork loin!

1,000 cases made \$45 Score: 94

Sea Smoke

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills TEN 2002

Deep ruby purple color; deep, plum and black cherry, pepper, spice aromas; dry, full, moderate tannin, black cherry flavors, some spice and pepper, lots of toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Big and rich Pinot; needs time in the glass to open up, and when it does, there'd better be a big pepper steak ready to go!

500 cases made \$65 Score: 93

Sebastopol Vineyards

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2001

Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 6.

Talisman

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Thorn Vineyard 2001

Deep ruby purple color; earthy, black cherry, some forest floor aromas; deep, rich, earthy flavors, forest floor and a core of black cherry fruit with a dose of toasty oak; good acidity and balance, long finish. Intense yet balanced with layers of complex flavors. This is Scott Rich's first vineyard-designated Pinot and he's definitely selected this one well.

404 cases made \$40 Score: 92

TAZ Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Barbara Counry 2002

Deep ruby purple color; ripe berries and some jammy notes on the nose; rich and ripe, jammy berry flavors, lots of juicy fruit; moderate toasty oak, long finish. Nice Pinot if you like more of a berry jam flavor profile.

2,966 cases made \$25 Score: 87

Three Saints

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2002

Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 3.

Contacting The Winery

Below is contact information for wines reviewed in this issue.

Babcock Vineyards

805-736-1455, www.babcockwinery.com

David Bruce Winery

408-399-5803, www.davidbrucewinery.com

Dierberg

805-693-0744, www.dierbergvineyard.com

Domaine Chandon

707-226-6090, www.chandon.com

Dutton Estate Winery

707-829-9463, www.sebastopolvineyards.com

Esterlina Vineyards & Winery

707-895-2920, www.esterlinavineyards.com

Etude Wines

707-257-5300, www.etude.com

Flying Goat Cellars

805-688-1814, www.flyinggoatcellars.com

Greenwood Ridge

707-895-2002, www.greenwoodridge.com

Hanzell Vineyards

707-996-3860, www.hanzell.com

Loring Wine Company

877.592-9463, www.loringwinecompany.com

Murphy-Goode

707-431-7644, www.murphygoodewinery.com

Ortman Family Vineyards

805-787-0810, www.ortmanvineyards.com

Paradise Ridge Winery

707-528-9463, www.paradiseridgewinery.com

Pisoni Vineyards

831-675-2027, www.pisonivineyards.com

Radio-Coteau

707-887-8335, www.radiocoteau.com

Sea Smoke Cellars

805-737-1600, www.seasmokecellars.com

Talisman Cellars

707-258-5722, www.talismanwine.com

TAZ Vineyards

805-226-7134, www.tazvineyards.com

[PNR]

“An Amazing Tale of Perverserance and Effort...”

Chalone:

A Journey On The Wine Frontier

By W. Philip Woodward and Gregory S. Walter

6 x 9 in; 222 pages, 24 black and white photos

\$20.00 Softcover, ISBN 097010300X

Standing amid the rows of grapevines at Chalone Vineyard is a sensuous experience. The vineyard is a green oasis surrounded by the comparative desolation of the manzanita- and chaparral-dotted benchland of the Gavilan Mountains. Towering above is the maze of basalt spires, jumbled boulders, crevices and caves that make up Central California's Pinnacles National Monument. It's eerily quiet; it seems as though one is completely alone, except for the wind, that is. The wind can be constant or wild and gusty, and it feels alive. This is a place that is worlds away from the more orderly, elegant, green and gentrified wine country of Northern California.

Despite all the incongruities, this is Chalone's place; and Chalone wouldn't be Chalone without it. The frontier spirit and drive that flows from taming a most unlikely environment and turning it into one of the world's finest and most unique wine estates is the same drive and spirit that took Chalone Vineyard and built it into the first premium publicly traded wine company.

Chalone: A Journey On The Wine Frontier, by W. Philip Woodward and Gregory S. Walter, is the first book to document the history and development of a pioneering California wine estate through its journey into becoming the first public premium wine company. "Chalone" is at once the history of a place and all of the interesting people who took up residence there over the years as well as the personal journey and recollections of Phil Woodward, the co-founder of the modern Chalone Vineyard. It is also a story about the struggles of entrepreneurship and an enduring passion for success.

What Others Are Saying:

"Chalone co-founder Phil Woodward and former *Wine Spectator* president Gregory Walter have fashioned a book that is lively, informative and packed with personality...The tale of Chalone's emergence as a respected wine-world brand is never less than fascinating."

-- Matthew DeBord, *Wine Spectator*

"**Chalone: A Journey on the Wine Frontier** relates the transformation from hard-scrabble operation to public company. [Co-founder and co-author Phil] Woodward came to recognize that going public was an efficient method to meet the winery's need for ready cash. There was a price, however—the obligations that come with being a public company strained his relationship with [co-founder Richard] Graff... The wine industry is unpredictable and producers must adapt. Rarely do they hold fast to the route initially envisioned."

-- Daniel Sogg, *Associate Editor, Wine Spectator*

"Phil Woodward's and Greg Walter's book about the struggle to establish and expand a California winery is a reminder that frontiers have been conquered in the not-so-wild West in the recent past, with delectable consequences for American wine lovers."

-- R.W. Apple Jr., *Senior Correspondent, The New York Times, in the book's Foreword.*

"If you want to learn about a wine company's development from step one, this is absolutely your book. And even if you're not 'into' wine, it's still a great buy if you like an engaging story."

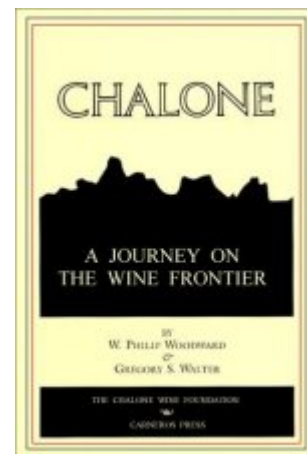
-- Steven Charnick, *wine lover, Wilmington, Del.*

"**Chalone: A Journey on the Wine Frontier** is a behind-the-scenes look at an organization that has become one of the most successful wine businesses in California. From the early days at an isolated spot in Monterey County to the latest acquisitions in Napa, this book details it all, and does so in a refreshing manner, occasionally even airing a bit of dirty laundry. The book is at its best describing the remarkable journey of Phil Woodward."

-- Tom Hyland, *The Underground Wine Journal.*

"This is the story of Chalone. The work shows how men of vision transformed a remote area, while lacking in basics such as water or electricity... Given its remote location, a wine lover might assume that whatever happened here happened in isolation. Not so. In the very earliest days of Chalone major wine figures from other regions played key roles... It's an amazing tale of perseverance and effort... Recommended."

-- Bob Foster, *Assistant Editor, California Grapevine.*



Order Now!

A Great Gift Idea!

Chalone: A Journey on the Wine Frontier is available now direct from Carneros Press for purchase and fast shipment for the low price of just **\$20.00** per copy.

Order today and we'll pay the \$3.50 shipping and handling charges!

Use the convenient order form on the next page or visit **www.pinotreport.com** to order online.

About Carneros Press

I started Carneros Press with a dream of **creating the kind of wine and food books that I like to read**—stories about people living their dreams as well as relevant contributions to knowledge for the wine and food consumer, whether those contributions are in the form of a terrific new cookbook, a tasting guide to a particular wine variety or region, or an essay on the joys of food and wine.

Gregory S. Walter, publisher

PINOTREPORT

ORDER FORM

To order online, please visit www.pinotreport.com

Yes! Please sign me up for **PinotReport** at the **special Charter Subscriber rate** indicated below:

ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION

- 1 year (12 issues) of **PinotReport** delivered by email. **Special Charter Subscriber Price: \$75.00 per year.**
 2 years (24 issues) of **PinotReport** delivered by email. **Special Charter Subscriber Price: \$135.00 for 2 years.**

Email Format Options: HTML Text (Choose the option that best suits your email program)

PRINT SUBSCRIPTION:

- 1 year (12 issues) of **PinotReport** delivered by First Class Mail. **Special Charter Subscriber Price: \$125.00 per year.**
 2 years (24 issues) of **PinotReport** delivered by First Class Mail **Special Charter Subscriber Price: \$225.00 for 2 years.**

Delivery Method Options: First Class Mail Fax Fax Number: _____

****International Print Subscription Orders: please add \$25.00 to cover additional airmail postage.****

SEND ME _____ COPIES OF "CHALONE: A JOURNEY ON THE WINE FRONTIER" @ \$20 per copy

**** For more information on this book by Gregory Walter, visit www.pinotreport.com ****

IS THIS A GIFT ORDER? YES NO If YES, please follow the directions below.

1. ORDER INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS (You or recipient if gift order)

Name

Company

Address

City, State Zip

Country

Phone (in case we have a question)

Email Address

BILLING ADDRESS (You if credit card and/or gift order)

Name

Company

Address

City, State Zip

Country

Phone (in case we have a question)

Email Address

(For gifts, attach any gift message to this form)

2. PAYMENT INFORMATION

- CHECK payable to PINOTREPORT (US Funds)
 VISA American Express Mastercard

Card Number

Expiration Date (MM/YY)

Card Verification Value (**Required** for credit card orders)*

* The Card Verification Value (CVV) is required by our bank as a security check for credit card orders. The CVV is a three- (MC, VISA) or four-digit (AMEX) number printed on the signature panel on the BACK of your credit card just following your credit card number.

3. TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Please tell us if you are a:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer | <input type="checkbox"/> Distributor Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wine retailer | <input type="checkbox"/> Winemaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurateur | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winery Owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine Media |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!

Please complete the form above. If paying by check, make it payable to PinotReport and enclose form and payment in an envelope and mail to: PinotReport, PO Box 2051, Sonoma, CA 95476. You can also fax this form to 707.996.6735. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue. If you have any questions, call 707.935.0326 or email gswalter@pinotreport.com.

PNR050228