

# PINOTREPORT

for people passionate about western pinot noir

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### 2005 WINNER

James Beard Award For  
Newsletter Writing On Food,  
Beverage, Restaurants  
and Nutrition

## On The Coastal Frontier...

**I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I VISITED WITH VANESSA WONG, NICK PEAY AND ANDY PEAY.** It was just over a year ago that I arranged to meet Andy in Healdsburg at the Flying Goat where we grabbed some coffee and then headed out to the vineyard in his car. We went the “fast way” – northwest through Dry Creek Valley, then out Stewarts Point/Skaggs Springs Road and then on Annapolis Road for well over an hour of winding roads and incredibly beautiful country. Andy drove the road with the ease of someone who obviously did it all the time—all the while giving me the history of the area and of Peay Vineyards.

At one point, Andy veered off the road into a barely visible driveway and road. Had we continued essentially west for another four or so miles (as the crow flies) we would have gone through the old logging town of **Annapolis** and eventually arrived at Highway 1, **Sea Ranch** and the **Pacific Ocean**.

**There's no question about it**, it's remote. Andy was quick to point out that although the Peay Vineyard site is one of the most northwesterly plantings of Pinot Noir in the Sonoma Coast, they are not alone up there. Several prominent Pinot Noir producers have planted nearby such as **Thomas Brown, Brice Jones** and **Hartford Court**.

At the end of the road sat a rustic farmhouse in a grove of trees on the top of a knoll. Beyond the house were the vineyards sloping down to the southeast, south and southwest. Standing there I could see what had drawn this trio to this spot.

Brothers Nick and Andy Peay began their search for such a place in 1995. **Nick** (he's the winegrower, managing the estate vineyards and helping in the winery) came to California after graduating from college to “catch the wine bug” either by working in a winery or working as a chef. He got his first full-time winery job with **Bill Smith** at **La Jota** in the Napa Valley. Shortly thereafter, Nick enrolled in the graduate enology program at UC Davis. During his graduate studies, he worked at **Schramberg, Newton** and **Storrs Winery**.

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# OUT IN PINOT COUNTRY

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[ Continued from page 1 ]

**Andy** (he's in charge of marketing, sales and "everything else"), by contrast, spent time on Wall Street as a financial analyst after graduating from Dartmouth College. He left banking to trek through Southeast Asia for a year and on his return settled in the San Francisco Bay Area and enrolled at UC Berkeley to study economic development. It was about this time that Nick convinced Andy to move his career focus to wine and to eventually create a wine business together. Andy began his wine education working crush at **Cain Vineyard** in Napa Valley and got some first-hand selling experience working for San Francisco retailer **The Jug Shop**. Around the same time they began the painstaking work to find the right site for their vineyard. They wanted to focus on cool climate Pinot Noir and Rhône varieties and after combing literally hundreds of miles of old logging roads, trails, and forgotten valleys up and down the coast, Andy happened upon the Annapolis vineyard site that is now Peay Vineyard on a flyer in the window of a Mendocino real estate office.

The brothers planted the estate to **Pinot Noir, Syrah, Viognier, Chardonnay, Marsanne** and **Roussanne** in two plantings—1998 and 2001—for a total of 48 acres planted. And while they worked the site and waited for their vineyards to develop, each continued to work in other wine businesses—Nick worked for **Flowers** in 1998 and 1999 and then did a stint in **Australia** at **Cold Stream Hills**. Andy kept getting experience in brand building first with **Napa Valley Kitchens** and then as a brand strategy consultant with **The Brand Consultancy** in San Francisco.

**Vanessa Wong** (the winemaker on the team, and Nick's wife) joined Nick and Andy for their first vintage in 2001. A San Francisco native, Vanessa is a UC Davis graduate with wide experience in Australia, France, Napa and Sonoma. She's worked at some pretty prestigious places—**Château Lafite-Rothschild** in Bordeaux, **Domaine Jean Gros** in Vosne-Romanée as well as **Franciscan Oakville Estates** and then five vintages at **Peter Michael Winery**.

My visit out to the vineyard was terrific—we tasted through the wines and shared an incredible lunch prepared by Nick and Vanessa. I knew at the time that these were dedicated artisans, but also really fun people that I wanted to keep in touch with. I remember discussing with Andy whether they were going to eventually build a winery on the site and he told me that while

they had considered doing so, it really didn't make much sense in terms of the remoteness of the vineyard site. "With the winding roads, we felt it would be a lot easier to truck our grapes out of here once a year than to truck bottles and everything else we would need to run a winery in here constantly." On our way back to Healdsburg that afternoon, he offered to take me to where they were breaking ground on their own winery. He drove me to **Cloverdale**, at the northern end of the **Alexander Valley**, to an area across the street from a shopping center and surrounded by houses and light industrial businesses. It's not exactly Westside Road or Highway 29, but its out of the way location gave them the flexibility and lower cost to design and build the winery that they needed.

**Fast forward a year or so.** Andy invited me to come up to the newly completed winery and taste through the 2003 finished wines and the 2004s in barrel. I met Andy and Vanessa at the new winery in Cloverdale and it is definitely an artisan winemaker's dream facility, much of it designed by Vanessa with as much of an eye to practical application as technological innovation. The most striking feature to me—someone who's in and out of a lot of wineries in a year—is the underground barrel cellar. There are **seven separate rooms**, each with its own temperature and humidity controls so that in fact they have seven separate barrel rooms for wines in different stages of development.

We tasted through several 2004 barrel lots—clonal selections from the Peay estate vineyard that will make up the final 2004 Pinot Noir. (See page 6 in this issue for my review of the 2003 Peay Pinot.) Here are my preliminary notes on the barrel lots:

**2004 Pommard Clone:** Rich, ripe with aromas and flavors of plum, toast and spice; great core of fruit, some mineral notes, excellent structure and balance.

**2004 Clone 115:** Earthier, some tea and orange peel on the nose and palate; lots of depth with a bright core of juicy fruit, mineral notes, nice balance and finish.

**2004 Clone 777:** Earthy, savory spices, soy aromas, bigger and more tannic with more black fruit flavors, good structure and balance, long finish.

**2004 Clone 667:** Rich red plum and berry notes, spicy, good core of fruit, excellent structure and balance, great finish.

In addition to Pinot Noir, Peay Vineyards makes estate grown

# OUT IN PINOT COUNTRY

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Syrah, Chardonnay, Viognier and a Marsanne/Roussanne white Rhône blend. These are all excellent, small-production wines that will be hard to find, but well worth the search.

## ***Recent Notable Tastings***

Notes on wines tasted here are generally the result of some of the many on-site visits I make throughout the year. My discussions about the wines here are not reviews and therefore are not scored. All wine reviews in **PinotReport** are the result of blind tastings I conduct in my office under controlled, consistent conditions. Many of the wines you will read about here are in essence quick previews of wines yet to be released.

## ***Pinot In Marin?***

**Probably if I asked you** to name any wineries or significant vineyards in **Marin County** (yes, that Marin County—home of the hot tub and the Grateful Dead) all I'd get is a blank stare and a period of silence. Well, I'm here to tell you that western Marin County is a Pinot producing region that you need to add to your ever expanding radar screen.

In June I attended a tasting of Pinot Noirs produced from seven wineries using fruit from Marin County vineyards, held at the Escalle Winery in downtown Larkspur, the oldest (established in 1881) winery in Marin County. The historic building (there is no operating winery there) was a great setting to introduce these Pinots to media, wine trade and consumers. Proceeds from the tasting event went to benefit the **Marin Agricultural Land Trust**, dedicated to preserving family farms in Marin County.

In general, western Marin County fits into the same microclimatological mold as many of the coastal ridges and cooler fog influenced wine micro-sites in Sonoma County to the north. Marin County winters are generally warmer than Sonoma or Napa counties because of the county's proximity to both the Pacific Ocean to the west and San Pablo Bay to the east, as well as heavy winter rains. This warmer winter and predominantly cooler spring and summer makes for a longer, more even growing season than other regions. Marin County currently has about 150 acres of vineyards, though that number was significantly higher before Prohibition. The prime areas for Pinot are in the cooler western reaches of the county.

Here are some general notes on a selection of the wines I tasted. Look for official reviews of many of these wines in

upcoming issues.

**Dutton-Goldfield Marin County Devil's Gulch Vineyard 2003:** Bright aromas of spice, nutmeg and cherry; rich and full on the palate with good structure and a long finish. I've liked this wine in previous vintages and find it to be one of the more interesting wines winemaker **Dan Goldfield** makes.

**Niebaum-Coppola Marin County Skywalker Ranch 2002:** This is the first vintage of this bottling from **Francis Ford Coppola's** Napa Valley winery. It's rich and deep with dusty black cherry flavors, great balance and a long finish. The vineyard is part of **Star Wars** creator **George Lucas's** Skywalker Ranch.

**Pey-Marin Vineyards Marin County Trois Filles 2003:** This is a very interesting and elegant Pinot, full of incredibly aromatic spicy notes, elegant cherry flavors, a silky texture, great balance and structure. Owners **Jonathan** and **Susan Pey** select the grapes for the "Trois Filles" bottling (named for their three daughters) from their two established estate vineyards located less than eight miles from the Pacific Ocean.

**Sean Thackrey Marin County Devil's Gulch Vineyard "Andromeda" 2002:** Big, deep and earthy with a lot of interesting barnyardy, forest floor notes; lots of complexity with a long finish. **Sean Thackrey**—a true wine renaissance man—is best known for his **Orion** Syrah and **Pleiades** red blend.

**Pt. Reyes Vineyard Marin County Estate Vineyard 2002:** Spicy, earthy with savory notes and cherry fruit, nice balance and a long finish.

**Stubbs Vineyards Marin County 2003:** Deep aromas and flavors of earth, cherry and forest floor, nice structure and balance with toasty oak on the finish. The Stubbs Vineyard is a few miles inland from Tomales Bay. Dan Goldfield is the winemaker for the Stubbs family.

**Vision Cellars Marin County Chileno Valley Vineyard 2002:** This Pinot is deep and complex with lots of cherry, bacon and spice, overall a well balanced Pinot with a lot to like. Vision Cellars owner **Mac McDonald** is definitely the best known of the Marin Pinot vintners. He's been making wines from Marin County grapes as far back as 1997.

Keep your eyes open for these wines and give them a try—you'll be pleasantly surprised.

# OUT IN PINOT COUNTRY

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## ***An El Molino Vertical and a Farewell to a Pinot Pioneer***

**Reginald Oliver**, founder and owner of **El Molino Winery** in the Napa Valley, was a man who was singularly committed to making great Burgundian-styled wines that had the added bonus of routinely aging really quite well. Reg Oliver died of melanoma just over a month ago at the age of 66.

He was a maverick in many ways, and under the radar producing great Pinot Noir from vineyards in Napa Valley—a region many think is too warm for Pinot. He was also a pioneer and a visionary, resisting the temptation of the marketplace to make big, overblown wines. He opted for power and depth through elegance and balance in all of his wines. He will be missed.

About a month before he died, Oliver's daughter and El Molino general manager **Lily Oliver** hosted a vertical tasting of the winery's Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs at **La Toque** restaurant in **Rutherford**. We tasted 10 Chardonnays from 1992 to 2003 and 12 Pinots from 1991 to 2002. My brief notes follow, in order from oldest to youngest. Because the El Molino Chardonnays are so consistently good and ageworthy, I've also included a few notes on them as well.

The **El Molino Chardonnays** were amazingly consistent from the youngest wine to the oldest in their pear and apple flavors, great structure and balance and slight touch of toastiness. Standouts in the vertical for me were the 1992, 1994, 1999 and the 2003.

**El Molino's Pinot Noirs** are consistently among the very best made in Napa Valley each year. El Molino Pinots are silky and elegant, with spicy, berry and cherry notes and a great depth of flavor. They invariably pair well with food because of their balance and silky texture.

**1991:** Rich and ripe with cherry aromas and flavors and slight cheese rind notes. Still in great shape with great structure and balance.

**1992:** A bit heavier and more tannic than the 1991 without as much cherry fruit; good structure and a long finish.

**1993:** Much like the 1992 in that there was more tannin apparent and less fruit.

**1994:** Dusty cherry and spice; dense fruit, complex flavors,

some tannin, great structure and balance.

**1995 (in magnum):** Big and full with lots of stuffing; dense, dark dusty black cherry with spicy notes; complex and deep with a lot of time ahead of it.

**1996 (in magnum):** Not as big as the 1995, but every bit as complex and interesting with spicy cherry flavors, great aromatics, structure and balance.

**1997:** Herbal and spice notes, reduced dried cherry notes, good length and balance.

**1998:** Spice and sour cherry flavors, deep and full with good balance and structure.

**1999:** Deep spicy notes, but mostly closed and a bit unyielding, moderate tannin, good structure; needs a lot of time in the glass and still in the cellar.

**2000:** Deep and closed, with hints of dusty cherry and spice; needs time to open up.

**2001:** Brighter black cherry aromas and flavors, with some earthiness, big and full but not overly tannic; will reward additional cellar time.

**2002:** Rich, ripe and beautiful black cherry aromas and flavors; deep and complex with layers of interesting flavors.

## ***PinotReport Goes Twice Monthly***

Why is this issue of **PinotReport** a bit shorter than normal? Because I'm beginning to implement a set of changes to **PinotReport** to make it **more frequent, more timely and more useful to you** than ever before. The most significant and immediately noticeable change will be that **PinotReport** will be arriving in your email (or snail mail) box **two times a month** beginning August 1. This change will allow me to get news and reviews out to you much faster and more efficiently and I hope give you much more of what you subscribed to read. Nothing will change in terms of the mechanics of your subscription. You may, however see a few minor cosmetic changes to the publication as time goes on. I welcome and encourage your comments.

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

**--Gregory S. Walter, editor and publisher**

[PNR]

## 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

### Acacia Winery

#### *Pinot Noir Carneros 2003*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; spicy, black cherry and cinnamon aromas with some sweet oak; rich, ripe, lots of black cherry and spice with moderate tannin and a good dose of sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. This is a Pinot that deftly walks the line between elegance and muscle; it has all the pretty black cherry and spice notes as well as the stuffing to stand up to a big meal.

**24,000 cases made \$20 Score: 92**

### Edna Valley Vineyard

#### *Pinot Noir Edna Valley Paragon Vineyard 2003*

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, rich aromas of dusty cherry, cinnamon notes; rich, juicy cherry fruit, lots of spice and cinnamon, sweet oak, nice balance and structure; lingering finish. A medium-bodied Pinot for the table—the rich fruit, spicy notes and good structure make this a versatile wine.

**17,500 cases made \$16 Score: 92**

### Hunter Hill Vineyard & Winery

#### *Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Hellenthal Vineyard 2003*

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy and deep, with complex earthy and cherry aromas; deep and complex flavors of black cherry, dusty, earthy flavors and toasty oak, good structure and balance, long finish. A big, complex style of Pinot that will

## MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

*"Very deep and rich..."*

### Roar Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2003*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, rich aromas of plum and black cherry with spice and smoky notes on nose; rich and ripe with intense plum and black cherry fruit, spicy, sweet oak with some smoky notes; great structure and balance; long finish. Very deep and rich and while it tastes great when you first open it, come back to it after an hour or so and it will have blossomed tremendously. This Pinot is from Roar owner Gary Francioni's own Rosella's Vineyard.

**206 cases made \$44 Score: 95**

improve with some patience and restraint.

**273 cases made \$30 Score: 89**

### Kazmer & Blaise

#### *Pinot Noir Carneros 2002*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; intense aromas of berry, savory spices and cumin; dense and deep with earthy, berry flavors, savory spice, significant tannin and lots of toasty oak; good structure and a long finish. There's no question that this is a huge Pinot. It absolutely requires the company of a big pepper steak or tri-rip roast to rein in the style a bit.

**1,183 cases made \$36 Score: 90**

### Marimar Estate

#### *Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Don Miguel Vineyard Cristina 2002*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; spicy, sweet cherry aromas, some oak; big, rich and ripe, moderate tannin, lots of berry and black cherry flavors, toasty oak, good structure, long finish. Big, dense and full of flavor, it will complement a hearty steak or tri-tip well.

**519 cases made \$47 Score: 91**

### Patz & Hall

#### *Pinot Noir Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2003*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, intense, berry and spice aromas; big, full and rich with intense berry and red cherry flavors, a nice earthy thread and sweet oak, silky mouthfeel, great balance and structure, long finish. This Pinot is probably the most consistent example of how good Carneros Pinot can be and how much the style has changed over the years from the light, strawberry flavored style to today's complex, deep style. Great vineyard, great wine.

**1,011 cases made \$50 Score: 95**

### Patz & Hall

#### *Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2003*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep black cherry and berry

## SMART BUY!

*"Big and rich style..."*

### King Estate Winery

#### *Pinot Noir Oregon 2002*

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, rich aromas of cherry and sweet oak; lots of sour cherry flavors, nice spicy notes and toasty oak, good balance and structure, lingering finish. A very pleasant Pinot—lots of delicious flavors make this drinkable, medium-bodied Pinot great for any occasion.

**16,529 cases made \$24 Score: 92**

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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notes on nose with some spice; rich, ripe, intense black cherry flavors with cinnamon and sweet oak; really nicely concentrated flavors, great structure and balance; long finish. WOW! Intense and deep and yet really silky on the palate. There's an awful lot here in the glass and an hour or two of air really brings it out.

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**2,873 cases made    \$33    Score: 94**

### **Patz & Hall**

#### ***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Burnside Vineyard 2003***

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, rich and spicy aromas with some toasty oak; intense black cherry and spice flavors, a little bit of heat, some cinnamon notes, sweet oak, good structure and balance; long finish. This is a big Pinot with concentrated, intense fruit—it's well balanced, but definitely needs some air time in the glass.

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**238 cases made    \$60    Score: 92**

### **Peay Vineyards**

#### ***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2003***

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep and rich aromas of black cherry, tea, lavender, star anise and spice; big and rich with great depth of flavor, intense black cherry, spice, orange, mineral and lavender notes; great structure and balance; long finish. This is a delicious and very intense Pinot with deep, concentrated flavors. The intensity is really well balanced with the wine's great structure and a definite mineral character. Needs a bunch of time in the glass to really open up.

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**335 cases made    \$40    Score: 94**

### **Roar Wines**

#### ***Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands 2003***

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, earthy, black cherry and plum aromas with a definite smoky note; rich, lots of plum and black cherry, sweet oak, deep silky flavors with a smoky note; great structure and balance; long finish. Beautifully rich and ripe Pinot with all beautiful fruit and smoky notes you expect in a Santa Lucia Pinot with the silkiness I've come to expect from Roar.

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**406 cases made    \$31    Score: 94**

### **Roar Wines**

#### ***Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's 2003***

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Please see "Make Room In The Cellar!" on page 5.

### **Schug Carneros Estate Winery**

#### ***Pinot Noir Carneros 2003***

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; earthy, with spice aromas; rich and full, some tannin, earthy, cinnamon, spice, toasty oak and some cherry and plum flavors, good structure with a long finish. Big and rich style of Pinot with a flavors and balance that make it a good match for most grilled meats and seafood.

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**5,355 cases made    \$20    Score: 91**

### **Tin House**

#### ***Pinot Noir Edna Valley 2002***

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Medium ruby color; spice, pepper, some berry/cherry notes on the nose; rich and ripe with lots of delicious juicy black cherry flavors and sweet oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deliciously ripe and rich with abundant black cherry and spice flavors as well as a really nice, silky mouthfeel. This wine is balanced to play well with food, but you'll be tempted to drink it while you're cooking!

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**750 cases made    \$36    Score: 93**

### **Waterstone Winery**

#### ***Pinot Noir Carneros 2002***

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Medium ruby color; earthy, cherry and spicy aromas; ripe, berry, cherry and spice flavors; elegant and silky on the palate; good structure and balance; lingering finish. A lighter and elegant style of Pinot with a lot of interesting flavors and texture.

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**1,644 cases made    \$18    Score: 89**

### **Windy Oaks Estate**

#### ***Pinot Noir Santa Cruz Mountains Proprietors Reserve 2001***

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Medium red color; lightly spicy, muted red cherry aromas; rich, ripe red cherry fruit, earthy, elegant, silky flavors, some sweet oak, good structure and balance; lingering finish. Elegant and spicy, this Pinot has some maturity that will work really well with lighter, complex dishes.

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**175 cases made    \$36    Score: 91**

## OREGON

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### **Archery Summit**

#### ***Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Arcus Estate 2002***

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; lots of spice, pepper, and forest floor aromas, bit closed; big, rich style with moderate tannins, some black cherry fruit with mainly earthy and forest floor notes; good structure, long finish. Big, bold and dense, this Pinot has a lot to offer for those who really enjoy their Pinots in a big style.

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**2,377 cases made    \$75    Score: 92**

### **Archery Summit**

#### ***Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Estate 2002***

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; lush, sweet cherry, spice and oak aromas; lush, rich, deep flavors of black cherry, spice and sweet oak; some tannin, but overall a silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and deep, this Pinot has a wonderful elegance and silkiness that makes it a delight to drink.

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**580 cases made    \$150    Score: 94**

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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### Archery Summit

*Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Premier Cuvee 2002*

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; earthy, savory spice aromas with some notes of plum and cherry; rich and deep cherry and plum flavors, spicy, some sweet oak, and a bit of tannin; good structure, long finish. Pretty, complex and deep style of Pinot that really opens up with a bit of time in the glass.

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**3,600 cases made     \$37     Score: 90**

### Archery Summit

*Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Red Hills Estate 2002*

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, spicy with pepper and berry notes; dense and complex with deep berry flavors, spice and lots of toasty oak and moderate tannins; good structure and a long finish. Very deep and rich style with significant tannins and toasty oak—there's a lot to like here, especially if you like your Pinots on the big side.

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**2,573 cases made     \$75     Score: 92**

### King Estate Winery

*Pinot Noir Oregon 2002*

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Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 5.

### Sineann

*Pinot Noir Columbia Gorge Phelps Creek Vineyard 2003*

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dusty cherry aromas, earthy with a hint of cocoa powder; rich core of dusty cherry fruit, earth and sweet oak, lots of complex flavors, good structure and balance; lingering finish. Deep and rich flavors with some interesting sweet oak notes make this a great and complex Pinot for the table.

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**160 cases made     \$42     Score: 91**

### Sineann

*Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Resonance Vineyard 2003*

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep and full aromas of black cherry, spice and some earthiness; rich and spicy, great core of black cherry fruit and sweet oak, nice silky mouthfeel, good structure and balance, long finish, Rich and ripe Pinot with lots of interesting and complex flavors. This bottling from Sineann used to be labeled as Reed & Reynolds.

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**506 cases made     \$42     Score: 93**

### Sineann

*Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Covey Ridge Vineyard 2003*

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; rich and deep spicy aromas with some black fruit aromas; rich and deep with some tannin and a deep core of black cherry fruit; good structure and balance, long finish. This is a big, deep Pinot that really needs some time in the glass to develop.

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**110 cases made     \$42     Score: 91**

### White Rose Estate

*Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Dundee Hills 2002*

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, spice, cinnamon aromas with some cherry and oak; rich and a bit earthy with black cherry, sweet oak and cinnamon notes; nice structure and balance; lingering finish. Rich and ripe style with nice earthy notes and good balance. The White Rose estate vineyard is located in the Red Hills of Dundee in the Willamette Valley. This estate bottling is made only in the best of years and is worth seeking out.

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**125 cases made     \$65     Score: 91**

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## Contacting The Winery

Below is contact information for wines reviewed in this issue.

### Acacia Winery

707.226.9991, [www.acaciawinery.com](http://www.acaciawinery.com)

### Archery Summit Winery

503.864.4300, [www.archerysummit.com](http://www.archerysummit.com)

### Edna Valley Vineyards

805.544.5855, [www.ednavalley.com](http://www.ednavalley.com)

### Hunter Hill Vineyard & Winery

831.465.9294, [www.hunterhillwines.com](http://www.hunterhillwines.com)

### Kazmer & Blaise

707.255.4929, [www.kazmerblaise.com](http://www.kazmerblaise.com)

### King Estate Winery

541.942.9874, [www.kingestate.com](http://www.kingestate.com)

### Marimar Estate

707.823.4365, [www.marimarestate.com](http://www.marimarestate.com)

### Patz & Hall Wine Co.

877.265.6700, [www.patzhall.com](http://www.patzhall.com)

### Peay Vineyards

415.631.2756, [www.peayvineyards.com](http://www.peayvineyards.com)

### Roar Wines

831.595.2098, [www.roarwines.com](http://www.roarwines.com)

### Schug Carneros Estate Winery

707.939.9363, [www.schugwinery.com](http://www.schugwinery.com)

### Sineann

503-341-2698, [www.sineann.com](http://www.sineann.com)

### Tin House Winery

831.484.1814, [www.tinhousewinery.com](http://www.tinhousewinery.com)

### Waterstone Winery

707.253.2511, [www.waterstonewines.com](http://www.waterstonewines.com)

### White Rose Estate

949-375-8021, [www.whiterosewines.com](http://www.whiterosewines.com)

### Windy Oaks Estate

831.786.9463, [www.windyoaksestate.com](http://www.windyoaksestate.com)

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## PINOTREPORT

For People Passionate About Western Pinot Noir

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**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 for use in its general "In The Market" new releases tastings as well as its special tasting reports. Please follow these guidelines for submitting wine samples for review.

1. All samples should be fully finished bottles ready for market.
2. Please submit two bottles of each wine.
3. Each wine submitted should include a data sheet with at minimum the suggested retail price, case production and distribution data.

All samples should be sent to the following address:

**PinotReport**

Attn: Gregory S. Walter

625 Ross Court, Sonoma, CA 95476

Tel: 707.935.0326

### 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" where we from time to time 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 and one tasting session in a day. While all scores are finalized before the wines are revealed, wines are usually kept open for a day or more to see how the wines develop. Additional commentary may be added based on this, but scores are not changed.

**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. Duplicate wines are inserted in tastings to measure consistency.

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.

### PinotReport's 100-Point Scale

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

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### The First Pocket Guide For People Passionate About Pinot Noir!

#### PinotReport's Field Guide To Western Pinot Noir

By **Gregory S. Walter**

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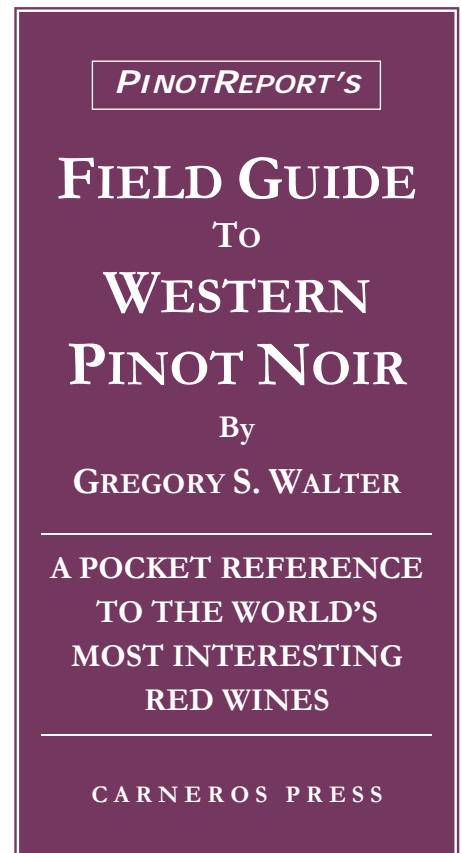
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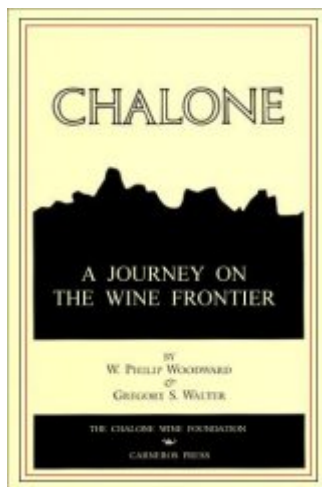
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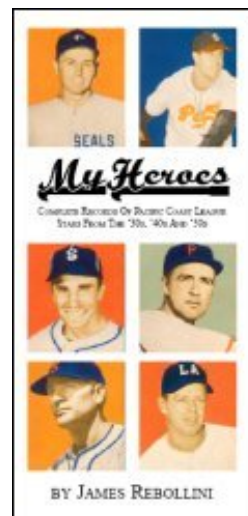
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I started Carneros Press with a dream of creating the kind of books that I like to read -- stories about people living their dreams as well as books that are relevant contributions to knowledge, whether those contributions are in the form of a terrific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

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