

PINOTREPORT

for people passionate about western pinot noir

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Pinot Diversity Training...

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT JUST HOW MUCH DIVERSITY THERE IS in the world around you? From religious and political diversity, our backgrounds and heritage—to even the breadth of flora and fauna in your backyard. Is it any wonder then that we should all have different perceptions and opinions when it comes to wine?

Look at the subject of this newsletter. If I put 10 of you around a table and served you each a glass of the same Pinot Noir, there would likely be nearly 10 different opinions and assessments of that Pinot. None would be right or wrong—they would all be valid opinions based on your personal preferences.

With this incredible diversity, **one doesn't have to look too hard to find opinions that are so out of whack with your own** that you can't help but question whether you're both looking at the same thing. I had that experience just recently while reading the Pinot Noir section of the "23rd Annual California's Best Of The Best," report in the Summer 2007 issue of **Quarterly Review of Wines** magazine (www.qrw.com). Here's the summary that appeared above their "Five Star Pinot Noir" picks:

"Pinot Noir is notoriously difficult to grow. It hates the heat, clones itself with reckless abandon, prefers thin, hardscrabble soils, and is subject to a host of vineyard diseases. Needless to say, those who make a living from Pinot Noir are destined, more often than not, to be disappointed. And the current crop of California Pinot Noir is certainly emblematic of this, as, sadly, there are far more misses than hits. Nevertheless, here are five wines that definitely hit the target."

Despite the fact that I disagree with that statement on so many levels, it's just as "right" as mine or yours. We can all disagree on styles, on what's "Burgundian" or not, or whether 2005 is a good vintage. But the one thing we can all agree on—and celebrate—is the incredible diversity of wine, of our opinions and beliefs, and of the amazing world around us. **Let's raise a glass to it.**

I'm about to start bombarding you with issues. Over the next several months, expect to receive **PinotReport** at least twice a month as I taste through a whole bunch of Pinots. Rather than save them up, I want to get them out to you as soon as possible.

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

-- Gregory S. Walter, editor and publisher



2005 WINNER

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

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.

Anthill Farms

Anthill Farms is David Low, Webster Marquez and Anthony Filiberti. This trio worked together in the cellar at Williams Selyem, where they developed and honed their passion for Pinot Noir. Over time they decided that they wanted to make their own Pinot from some of the coastal vineyards that they had come to know and Anthill Farms was born. These are terrific, texture-driven Pinots that are worthy of your attention.

Anthill Farms Winery

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Demuth Vineyard 2005

Medium deep ruby color; earthy, spicy cherry aromas; earthy, dusty red cherry flavors, sweet oak, some herbal notes; great structure and balance; long finish. Earthy and toasty notes add complexity to this Pinot—serve with an earthy mushroom chicken.

102 cases made \$38 Score: 93

Anthill Farms Winery

Pinot Noir Mendocino County Comptche Ridge Vineyard 2005

Medium deep ruby color; spice, pepper, dusty cherry aromas; rich and ripe, dusty cherry flavors, spicy, some pepper notes; great structure and balance; long finish. Rich and spicy, this is a lush and tasty Pinot.

75 cases made \$36 Score: 92

Anthill Farms Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Tina Marie Vineyard 2005

Medium deep ruby color; bit tight, some earthy, toasty aromas;

ripe, big, some red cherry, earthy flavors, toasty oak, great structure and balance; long finish. Earthy and ripe flavors make this a tasty Pinot. Needs time in the glass and in the bottle.

210 cases made \$43 Score: 92

Anthill Farms Winery

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Peters Vineyard 2005

Medium ruby color; deep, spicy, black cherry, forest floor aromas; deep, lush black cherry fruit, spicy, rich flavors, some tannin and toasty oak, great structure and balance; long finish. Big and lush, this is a Pinot that needs time in the glass and in the bottle to make it even better.

134 cases made \$38 Score: 93

Black Kite Cellars

Black Kite Cellars is truly a family venture—three generations of the Green family are involved in the winery's day to day operations. Donald and Maureen Green moved to Sonoma County in 1987. Donald had founded three telecommunications companies in the North Bay and was an avid ornithologist; Maureen a dedicated animal lover. They wanted to be a part of the agricultural lifestyle of the area. They purchased the 40-acre parcel in the Anderson Valley that would become the Black Kite Vineyard in 1995. The land is in the "Deep End" area of the valley along the Navarro River near the town of Philo and had an old Gewurztraminer vineyard in the lower blocks down by the river. In 1999, The Greens replanted the vineyard to Pinot Noir and added two additional blocks up the hill from the river. The three blocks are Redwoods' Edge at the top of the property, Stony Terrace in the middle and River Bend along the river. Donald and Maureen's two daughters, Rebecca Green Birdsall and Victoria Green Comfort, and grandson Michael Green are also involved in Black Kite. Rebecca oversees all winery operations including working with winemaker Jeff Gaffner (his family's label is Saxon Brown). Pinot bottlings include an Anderson

MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

"Deep and complex..."

Papapietro Perry Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Peters Vineyard 2005

Medium ruby color; bit tight with some black cherry and spice aromas; rich and deep with black cherry, spice and a lush, silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. This Pinot has a lot of depth and complexity that's just not showing right now. It needs more time in the bottle and a bunch of time in the glass.

530 cases made \$48 Score: 95

SMART BUY!

"Big and intense..."

Three Saints

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2004

Medium deep ruby red color; deep, spicy, black pepper aromas; ripe, deep black cherry flavors, spicy, black pepper notes, toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Big and intense Pinot with a nice balance of black pepper and cherry. From Dierberg Vineyard.

2,169 cases made \$20 Score: 90

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Valley blend and two block specific bottlings—Redwoods' Edge and Stony Terrace. The style is deep and complex with a great core of fruit. Oh, and the name—Black Kite Cellars—comes from one of birder Donald Green's favorite birds now known as the White Tailed Kite. This mostly white falcon-shaped raptor used to be known as the Black Shouldered Kite. The Greens got creative, shortened the name and changed the bird on the label to all black and a brand was born.

Black Kite Cellars ***Pinot Noir Anderson Valley 2005***

Deep ruby color; deep, spicy, dense black cherry aromas; ripe, rich, deep and dense black cherry flavors, complex, spicy, moderate tannin, sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Big and deep with tremendously complex flavors; this Pinot really needs time in the glass and will reward some additional cellar time.

289 cases made \$35 Score: 92

Black Kite Cellars ***Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Stony Terrace 2005***

Deep ruby color; ripe, rich and deep cherry and spice aromas; complex, deep and ripe black cherry, spice and forest floor flavors; moderate tannin, sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Big, deep and balanced, this Pinot needs time but the ripe and rich flavors really come through right now. Make sure you give it plenty of time in the glass.

73 cases made \$48 Score: 94

Black Kite Cellars ***Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Redwoods' Edge 2005***

Deep ruby color; deep, spicy, black cherry with lots of toasty notes; deep, complex stewed black cherry flavors, spicy, earthy notes, moderate tannin, great structure and balance; long finish. Rich, deep and complex with a great broad core of cherry fruit; needs plenty of time in the glass.

74 cases made \$40 Score: 92

Chateau St. Jean

Chateau St. Jean was established in 1973 on 250 acres of old orchard land and a private estate in the town of Kenwood in the Sonoma Valley. Founding winemaker Richard Arrowood quickly established the winery as a quality leader in white wines, particularly in Chardonnay and various styles of Riesling and Gewurztraminer. The early red wines were good, but not as good as the whites. He also established Chateau St. Jean as one of the first wineries to use vineyard designates on its labels. Decades and several ownership changes later, Chateau St. Jean is part of Foster's Wine Group, but much of the focus on quality and vineyard designates are still in place. Current winemaker Margo van Staaveren has been with the winery in winemaking roles since 1979. Her Pinot program includes a

Sonoma County bottling and a bottling from the Durrell Vineyard in Carneros. Both are consistently good, silky and interesting Pinots that are also consistent values.

Chateau St. Jean ***Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2004***

Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 4.

Dierberg

Dierberg is a name shared by a label and a vineyard founded by Jim Dierberg. The vineyard is located in the southern reaches of the Santa Maria Valley on a site that has a variety of facings and soil types. The cool, ocean influenced climate of the Santa Maria Valley makes a perfect site for the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir planted there. The Dierberg Vineyard name has appeared on the labels of several top Pinot Noir producers and more recently some of the fruit from the vineyard is going under the family's own label with excellent results. Nicholas de Luca is winemaker with Paul Hobbs as a consulting winemaker. The Dierberg Pinots are rich and bold with the plush red cherry fruit on the middle palate that is so characteristic of Santa Maria Valley Pinots. These are definitely wines to seek out.

Dierberg ***Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2004***

Medium deep ruby red color; ripe, rich spicy, red cherry, smoky aromas; ripe, rich, earthy, smoky cherry flavors, sweet oak, silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Balanced, delicate style of Pinot with just the right core of red cherry balanced against smoky, earthy notes.

1,952 cases made \$38 Score: 91

Three Saints ***Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2004***

Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 2.

Domaine Carneros

Domaine Carneros is located in the heart of the Carneros region and is hard to miss as you drive Highway 121—the Carneros Highway—between the Napa and Sonoma valleys. The dramatic French chateau is surrounded by vineyards and sits on the top of a hill. Owned by Champagne Taittinger of France, Domaine Carneros is best known for its terrific sparkling wines. Like many Western sparkling wine producers, Domaine Carneros discovered that its estate vineyards were well suited for producing still Pinot Noir as well. What began as a tiny production primarily for internal consumption has become an aggressive Pinot Noir program, complete with a new still wine cellar and winemaking facility directly behind the chateau. Domaine Carneros' Pinot bottlings include an estate bottling and the higher end "Famous Gate" Pinot.

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Domaine Carneros

Pinot Noir Carneros 2004

Medium ruby color; spicy, earthy, red cherry aromas; earthy, red cherry flavors, spicy, good structure; long finish. Earthy Pinot with forest floor notes and good structure.

n/a cases made \$28 Score: 87

Dutton Estate Winery

Dutton Estate Winery was established in 1995 by Tracy & Joe Dutton. Tracy spends her days managing the winery while Joe is managing the extensive family-owned Dutton Ranch vineyards, established by Joe's parents, Warren and Gail Dutton. Mat Gustafson is winemaker for the family's Sebastopol Vineyards and Dutton Estate Winery brands, producing Chardonnay, Pinot Noir Sauvignon Blanc and Syrah all under low-intervention winemaking techniques. Pinot bottlings include Russian River blends and special designates including the Thomas Road and Jewell Block bottlings. Total production is around 1,200 cases. The wines are supple, rich and full of the flavors from the Dutton Ranch vineyards.

Dutton Estate Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Manzanita Vineyard 2005

Medium ruby color; deep, complex red cherry aromas with lots of spicy notes; ripe and deep, with red cherry, spice and some forest floor flavors; sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Deep and complex, this Pinot would really sing with a mushroom chicken or pork dish.

132 cases made \$45 Score: 94

Gary Farrell

When Gary Farrell moved to Sonoma County in 1971 it was to pursue his education in what he thought was his career path—practicing law. He soon found himself fascinated by wines in

general and the Russian River Valley specifically. He began to make wine at home and it didn't take long for him to envision a course change and pursue winemaking as a career. In the mid-1970s, he began his winemaking education working alongside such early pioneers as Tom Dehlinger, Robert Stemmler, Davis Bynum and Joe Rochioli. In 1978, he was hired as winemaker at the Davis Bynum Winery. In 1982, he decided that he wanted to make his own wine and exchanged his winemaking services for grapes from Joe Rochioli. That year, he made 50 cases of Pinot Noir from Rochioli and from the Allen Vineyard, and Gary Farrell Wines was born. He continued to make his and the Davis Bynum wines through 1999 when he took on an investor to help him build his own winery on Westside Road. The new winery came on line in 2000 and Gary left Davis Bynum to focus full time on his own brand. In 2004 he sold the Gary Farrell brand and winery to Allied Domecq which was eventually sold to Fortune Brands, parent company of Jim Beam, and was folded along with their Peak Wines International unit into a new company: Beam Wine Estates. Gary stayed on as winemaker. In early 2007, Gary resigned and left the winery to launch a new Pinot venture. Susan Reed is the current winemaker. Pinot bottlings include Allen Vineyard, Jack Hill Vineyard, Rochioli Vineyard and Starr Ridge Vineyard designates, as well as a Russian River Selection and a Rochioli-Allen blend.

Gary Farrell

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Jack Hill Vineyard 2004

Medium ruby color; big, rich, deep black cherry flavors; deep and rich black cherry flavors with moderate tannin and toasty oak; good structure and finish. Dense and tannic, this Pinot needs a hearty dish on the table.

n/a cases made \$50 Score: 87

Gary Farrell

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Rochioli Vineyard 2004

Medium ruby color; earthy, spicy, berry cherry aromas; deep, earthy, slightly woody flavors; toasty oak; good structure and

MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

"Amazingly complex..."

Talisman Cellars

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Thorn Ridge Vineyard 2004

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, deep cherry, cola and forest floor aromas; deep, ripe, with layers of complex cherry, forest floor and spice flavors; bit tannic; great structure and balance; long finish. This is an amazingly complex and interesting Pinot—so much here to like.

421 cases made \$46 Score: 95

SMART BUY!

"Deep and rich..."

Chateau St. Jean

Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2004

Medium deep ruby red color; deep cherry and spice aromas; ripe, rich, cherry, spice and earthy notes, silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Deep and rich with a lot of complex earthy notes.

23,500 cases made \$22 Score: 91

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

balance. Deep and earthy with a lot of savory notes.

396 cases made \$60 Score: 87

Gary Farrell

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Starr Ridge Vineyard 2004

Medium ruby color; earthy, savory spice aromas; earthy, savory spice, stewed cherry flavors, some tannin and toasty oak; good structure, long finish. Big, earthy Pinot with lots of forest floor and savory notes.

966 cases made \$50 Score: 90

Gloria Ferrer

Gloria Ferrer was founded in 1982 with the purchase of 250 acres of pasture land in the western end of the Carneros wine region. The Ferrer family, owners of one of the world's largest sparkling wine producer, Freixenet, wanted to create top-quality sparkling wine in California. The winery was completed in 1986; Gloria Ferrer is named after patriarch Jose Ferrer's wife. The original estate vineyard around the winery were planted to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. These vineyards were supplemented in 1997 and 1998 with the planting of the Circle Bar Ranch, a mile or so south of the winery. This 128-acre vineyard comprises 13 different blocks and is planted to Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Merlot and Syrah. Bob Iantosca is winemaker, Mike Crumley is vineyard manager. Pinot bottlings include a Carneros appellation blend, block selections named Gravel Knob and Rust Rock Terrace, and the Jose S. Ferrer bottling. Gloria Ferrer Pinots tend toward deep, rich aromas and flavors with lots of earthy complexity. The Carneros bottling is drinkable on release; the Gravel Knob, Rust Rock Terrace and Jose S. Ferrer bottlings all benefit from additional age.

Gloria Ferrer

Pinot Noir Carneros Gravel Knob 2002

Medium deep ruby red color; deep, stewed cherry and oak aromas; ripe, deep stewed cherry and earthy flavors; lots of toasty oak; long finish. Deep, earthy style of Pinot that would go just great with an earthy mushroom pasta.

3,462 cases made \$40 Score: 89

Gloria Ferrer

Pinot Noir Carneros Rust Rock Terrace 2002

Medium deep ruby red color; stewed cherry and woody aromas; deep, moderate tannins and oak flavors, some stewed cherry, long finish. Big, woody style of Pinot; a good dose of tannin and oak.

4,300 cases made \$40 Score: 86

Hawley

In 1980 John Hawley took his first job at Preston Cellars in Dry Creek Valley. He was fresh out of school and the one-man operation at Preston gave him some great early jack-of-all-trades experience. Within a year or two he was hired to be the first winemaker at Clos du Bois, then a startup winery in Healdsburg. John would spend the next nine years helping Clos du Bois grow from 15,000 cases to more than 200,000 when Kendall-Jackson recruited him to lead their winemaking efforts. By 1995 he was making 2.5 million cases of wine. John decided it was time to get small. John and his wife Dana launched John Hawley Wines in 1996, producing Merlot and Viognier to start. Today, John makes Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Viognier and Pinot Noir, mostly from vineyards in the Dry Creek Valley and the Russian River Valley. His Pinot comes from the Oehlman Vineyard in the Vine Hill area and Mullenhoff Vineyard in the Santa Rosa Plain.

Hawley

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2004

Medium ruby color; herbal, dusty red cherry aromas; ripe, dusty red cherry, herbal flavors; toasty oak; lingering finish. Medium-bodied style of Pinot with attractive herbal notes.

375 cases made \$32 Score: 89

Hendry Winery

George Hendry has been involved in growing grapes all his life. The 120-acre Hendry Ranch Vineyard, at the base of the mountains at the western end of the city of Napa, is where George was raised. The Hendry vineyard, up until 1992, supplied fruit to Robert Mondavi Winery for the winery's reserve program and still grows Zinfandel for a special bottling of Rosenblum Cellars. George Hendry is also well known in the field of nuclear physics, having designed particle accelerators (Cyclotrons) for medical purposes. Hendry Winery was born in 1992—George decided to start making small lots of wine from his estate fruit. The results were encouraging enough to release those first wines in 1995 under the Hendry label. Susan Ridley, a neighbor of George's for 30 years and a fellow grape grower, became a partner in the winery in 1995 and handles sales and marketing. The Hendry Pinot Noir, from blocks 4 and 5 in the vineyard, is always an elegant, spicy and interesting wine.

Hendry Winery

Pinot Noir Napa Valley Blocks 4 & 5 2004

Medium ruby color; deep, dusty red cherry aromas; deep, earthy, red cherry flavors, solid core of fruit, slight tannin and toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Big style of

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Pinot with a nice core of red cherry fruit.

880 cases made \$33 Score: 91

Kasuari Wines

Kasuari Wines is the venture of Michael Peters, Richard Dobscha and Drake Johnson. They make Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Syrah and Pinot Noir. Their Pinot comes from the Peters Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast—a vineyard that we've come to know as part of the Papapietro Perry lineup. Mike's family has been living and farming in Sonoma County for five generations. His Pinots are big and deep and need time to open in the glass—they'll also benefit from some time in your cellar.

Kasuari Wines

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Peters Vineyard 2005

Medium ruby color; deep, earthy aromas with herbal and sweet oak notes; big, ripe and rich, with deep black cherry flavors, herbal and spice notes, toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Big and ripe, this Pinot has a lot of depth and interest.

48 cases made \$34 Score: 93

Larson Family Winery

Larson Family Winery has one of the greatest winery mottos I can remember every reading: "We drink what we can and sell the rest!" From the ranch at the southern end of the Sonoma Valley that the family has owned since the late 1800s, Tom and Becky Larson have built a vineyard and working winery making a wide range of terrific wines including Pinot Noir. But the family ranch has significance beyond its longevity—it is the site of the once bustling port of Embarcadero, where ferries and other vessels brought people and cargo to Sonoma County. Today, the winery includes all kinds of activities beyond tasting including a Civil War-era farmhouse that's available as a vacation rental. Tom produces Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Grigio, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Meritage, Petite Sirah, Pinot Noir Rosé and Pinot Noir, just about all estate bottled with Carneros appellations. His Pinot Noir is bright, with great cherry fruit and complexity. Check this winery out next time you're in the Sonoma Valley.

Larson Family Winery

Pinot Noir Carneros 2004

Medium ruby color; ripe red cherry aromas with spicy notes; ripe, red cherry and spice flavors, silky texture, sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. A delicious, easy to drink Pinot that goes well with a wide variety of foods.

n/a cases made \$29 Score: 92

LaTour Vineyards

Tom LaTour is known around the world for developing cutting edge boutique hotels and fine restaurants at his day job as CEO and Chairman of the Kimpton Group. A long-time hobby as a "garage" winemaker turned professional in 1999 with the acquisition of 25 acres on Mt. Veeder in the Napa Valley where he and his wife Barbara grow Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah and 10 acres in Walla Walla, Washington where they grow Cabernet Sauvignon. In addition, the LaTours bottle Pinot Noir produced in the Willamette Valley. The Oregon Pinot is from Lazy River Vineyards, owned by Ned and Kirsten Lumpkin. Mike Stevenson of Lazy River Vineyard is consulting winemaker.

LaTour

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Lazy River Vineyard 2004

Medium ruby color; black cherry, rich, smoky aromas; rich and ripe black cherry, spice, smoky flavors, silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Rich and full of smoky cherry flavors; this Pinot really calls out for roasted meats.

96 cases made \$46 Score: 92

Meridian Vineyards

Meridian Vineyards began as a partnership between founding winemaker Chuck Ortman and Wine World Estates, then owner of Beringer Vineyards. Chuck had long seen the potential for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in the Central Coast and convinced Beringer to set up shop in the old Estrella River Winery in Paso Robles. Today, Meridian wines come from vineyards in three appellations: Santa Barbara County, Edna Valley and Paso Robles. The Meridian Pinot Noir remains a terrific everyday Pinot at an affordable price.

Meridian

Pinot Noir Central Coast 2005

Medium ruby color; lean cherry, berry aromas; lean, lighter bodied, cherry, berry flavors, touch of oak, lingering finish. A nice lighter style of Pinot that will work with most meals.

n/a cases made \$11 Score: 86

Miner Family Vineyards

Miner Family Vineyards was founded in 1998 by Dave and Emily Miner along with Dave's parents on the eastern side of the Napa Valley. After several years working in the software industry, Dave began his life in wine as president of Oakville Ranch Vineyards. The Miner philosophy is to produce a wine range of varietal wines from the best vineyards in key regions. Gary Brookman is the winemaker. The Miner Family Pinot Noirs include bottlings from Garys' Vineyard and Rosella's Vineyard, both in Santa Lucia Highlands.

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Miner Family Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004

Medium ruby color; rich, stewed cherry aromas with some smoky oak notes; ripe, deep, rich, stewed cherry flavors, smoky, sweet oak flavors, silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. A rich, full, complex Pinot with the depth and structure to age and stand up to a juicy steak.

1,347 cases made \$50 Score: 91

Miner Family Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004

Medium ruby color; rich, ripe cherry aromas with a touch of smoky notes; stewed black cherry flavors with smoky notes and sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Rich and elegant Pinot with nice stewed cherry and smoky notes.

792 cases made \$50 Score: 90

Montinore Vineyards

Montinore Estate was established in 1982 on a century-old 585-acre estate at the northern end of the Willamette Valley. With 200 acres of vineyards in the foothills of the Oregon Coastal range, the winery is well equipped to make a wide range of white varieties as well as Pinot Noir. Rudy Marchesi, owner since 2006, has been involved with managing the winery since the late 1990s and has moved the winery closer to obtaining Demeter certification for biodynamic farming in its vineyards and has decreased production from nearly 70,000 cases in 1997 to a current 35,000 cases with a decrease yield in the vineyard and a more focused approach in the winery. Pinot bottlings include an estate bottling, a Winemakers Reserve and three special designates: the Pierce's Elbow, Parson's Ridge and Graham's Block bottlings.

Montinore

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Graham's Block 2003

Medium deep ruby color; deep spice, pepper, earthy aromas; big, full, rich blueberry and cherry flavors, complex earthy notes; moderate tannin; great structure and balance; long finish. Big and complex with a lot of interesting flavors; definitely gets better with bottle age and time in the glass.

102 cases made \$32 Score: 91

Montinore

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Parson's Ridge 2003

Medium ruby color; deep, earthy, stewed blueberry aromas, some toasty oak; rich, ripe blueberry, some earthy and forest floor notes, toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Ripe and earthy Pinot with nice forest floor notes—a complex Pinot for the table.

97 cases made \$32 Score: 90

Montinore

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Winemakers Reserve 2004

Medium ruby color; deep, earthy, forest floor, blueberry aromas; big, rich, blueberry fruit; earthy notes, moderate tannin and toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Big and deep Pinot with a lot to offer.

1,194 cases made \$20 Score: 89

Papapietro Perry Winery

Papapietro Perry Winery is a wine venture between four friends—Ben and Yolanda Papapietro and Bruce and Renae Perry. For Ben Papapietro, wine was always there—on the dinner table, at all family gatherings and in his grandparents' cellar. In 1980, Ben started his own garage winery at his San Francisco home. He began helping in the fledgling winery of a fellow newspaper employee—Burt Williams, co-founder of Williams & Selyem. It wasn't long before Ben produced his first solo Pinot Noir, securing enough grapes to produce five gallons of wine. A few years later friend Bruce Perry joined Ben in his winemaking ventures. By 1990, Ben and Bruce found consistent vineyard sources for their homemade Pinot Noir and spent the next eight years perfecting their craft. Armed with encouragement from friends, Ben and Bruce went commercial with their wine in 1998, producing 75 cases of Pinot Noir. As they became more established, they built relationships with great vineyards in the Russian River and Sonoma coast regions and continued to make terrific Pinot. Bruce's wife Renae Perry soon took on the sales and marketing for the growing brand. Ben's Pinots are definitely vineyard-driven and thus the styles vary with each vineyard and vintage, but there's always a core of deep fruit, silky texture, great structure and balance. Pinot bottlings include appellation blends for Russian River and Sonoma Coast, vineyard designates from Peters Vineyard, Leras Family Vineyard, Mukaida Vineyard, Ellsbree Vineyard, and a Pommard Clones bottling that is a clonal selection from the Peters and Leras Family vineyards.

Papapietro Perry Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2005

Medium ruby color; ripe, lush, red cherry aromas; ripe and lush with red cherry flavors, earthy notes, toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Ripe and lush, this Pinot is a great representative blend of Russian River styles.

1,150 cases made \$42 Score: 93

Papapietro Perry Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Ellsbree Vineyard 2005

Medium deep ruby color; deep, spicy, black cherry aromas, a bit tight; deep, rich, lush black cherry fruit, spicy notes with some forest floor; some tannin and sweet oak; great structure

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

and balance; long finish. Very deep and complex, this is a Pinot that with enough air will drink really well now, but also has the structure to really grow with some bottle age.

230 cases made \$48 Score: 94

Papapietro Perry Winery
Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Leras Family Vineyards 2005

Medium ruby color; ripe, rich, deep red cherry aromas; lush, rich and deep flavors, juicy red cherry, spicy and sweet oak flavors; silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Very lush and deep, the juicy red cherry fruit just make this a delight to drink.

920 cases made \$48 Score: 93

Papapietro Perry Winery
Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Mukaida Vineyard 2005

Medium ruby color; spicy red cherry aromas; lush and rich dusty red cherry flavors, spice and sweet oak, slight tannin; great structure and balance; long finish. Lush and rich, this is a deliciously complex Pinot with a lot to like.

170 cases made \$75 Score: 95

Papapietro Perry Winery
Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Peters Vineyard 2005

Please see "Make Room In The Cellar!" on page 2.

Papapietro Perry Winery
Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Pommard Clones 2005

Medium ruby color; deep, complex red cherry aromas with spice and earthy notes; ripe, rich, deep, juicy cherry flavors, earthy, spice notes; some tannin, great structure and balance; long finish. This is a lush and delicious Pinot—the '05 really has some structure to continue to develop in the bottle, but it's definitely drinking really well now.

445 cases made \$68 Score: 95

Paul Mathew Vineyards

Mat Gustafson came to the Russian River Valley after several years in retail and restaurants in Michigan and Colorado, building his passion for wine all along. Gradually, he decided he wanted to make wine and started a vineyard development company and began working in Western Sonoma County. It was there he met Joe Dutton of Dutton Ranch. Joe began recommending Mat's company for small vineyard sites. Mat soon sold his share of the vineyard management company and went to work at the Dutton family's Sebastopol Vineyards/Dutton Estate Winery as assistant winemaker, working with consulting winemaker Merry Edwards. In 2002, Mat was named head winemaker, the position he holds today. With Paul Mathew Vineyards, he takes advantage of his

relationship with the Dutton family to source incredible Pinot fruit from their west county vineyard sites. He is a low-impact, low intervention winemaker and his style of Pinot shows that respect for the fruit—his Pinots are complex, delicate and elegant with a deep core of fruit and great structure. Mat's wife Barb runs the business side of the winery. This is a winery that ought to be on your short list to try.

Paul Mathew Vineyards
Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Ruxton Vineyard 2005

Medium ruby color; spicy, slightly stewed cherry aromas, delicate; complex, delicious stewed cherry, spicy, delicate and complex, silky texture, sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Delicious, juicy fruit, this wine is delightfully complex and interesting with a great silky mouthfeel.

168 cases made \$34 Score: 94

Paul Mathew Vineyards
Pinot Noir Russian River Valley TnT Vineyard 2005

Medium ruby color; spicy red cherry and strawberry aromas; ripe, rich, spicy red cherry flavors, bright, silky texture, sweet oak, great structure and balance; long finish. Bright and delicious Pinot—this wine is perfect for sipping on its own.

175 cases made \$32 Score: 93

Paul Mathew Vineyards
Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2005

Medium ruby color; cherry, spice, delicate aromas; complex, spicy, red cherry flavors, nice touch of forest floor; delicate and silky; great structure and balance; long finish. Delicate and silky, this Pinot packs a lot of complexity into a seemingly lighter framework.

398 cases made \$28 Score: 92

Phillips Hill

Phillips Hill is a small Pinot producer based in the Anderson Valley. Winemaker Toby Hill sources his Pinot Noir from the Oppenlander Vineyard north of the Anderson Valley in the tiny town of Comptche, just 10 miles from the ocean. Phillips Hill is a small artisan producer worth watching.

Phillips Hill
Pinot Noir Mendocino County Comptche Ridge Vineyard 2004

Medium deep ruby color; attractive red cherry and herbal aromas; ripe, red cherry with earthy, herbal notes; moderate tannin; great structure and balance; long finish. Big and earthy with a nice core of red cherry fruit.

100 cases made \$40 Score: 91

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Phillips Hill

Pinot Noir Mendocino County Oppenlander Vineyard 2004

Medium deep ruby color; deep, earthy, dusty red cherry aromas; ripe, rich, deep earthy notes with dusty cherry flavors, elegant mouthfeel; great structure and balance; long finish. A delicious, earthy Pinot with pretty and elegant flavors.

100 cases made \$40 Score: 92

Rideau Vineyard

Rideau Vineyard was founded in 1997 in the Santa Ynez Valley by New Orleans native, Iris Rideau. Early on, Iris decided to dedicate her estate vineyard entirely to Rhône varieties because she felt that Rhône-style wines were not only ideally suited to the site, but also to the Creole cuisine of her childhood. Rideau's winemaker Andres Ibarra also makes Pinot Noir from Bien Nacido Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley and from Sanford & Benedict Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills. These are big but balanced Pinots, true to their vineyard sources.

Rideau Vineyard

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard In-Circle Cellar Club 2004

Medium ruby color; deep, earthy, pepper and plum aromas; ripe, rich dusty plum and earthy flavors, some tannin and toasty oak; long finish. Ripe and earthy style of Pinot with the structure to stand up to a nice steak.

241 cases made \$42 Score: 89

Rideau Vineyard

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Sanford & Benedict Vineyard 2004

Medium deep ruby color; pepper, black cherry, plummy aromas; ripe, plum and cherry flavors, pepper and spice with some toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Spicy and ripe flavors make this a nice Pinot for the table.

169 cases made \$52 Score: 90

Robert Stemmler

Robert Stemmler Winery has a three-decade long history of producing wines in California. Founder Robert Stemmler came to the United States in 1961 and joined the winemaking team at Charles Krug Winery in the Napa Valley. He also worked at Inglenook Vineyards and Simi Winery before establishing his own winery in the Dry Creek Valley in 1976. His goal was to make great Pinot Noir and his first Pinot release in 1982 was well received. Fast forward to 2001. German beverage company A. Racker has sold its interest in Carneros-based Buena Vista Winery to Allied Domecq, but keeps 120 acres of prime vineyards. Anna Moller-Racke, who was instrumental in

developing the Buena Vista vineyards takes the lead in creating a new venture called the Donum Estate and at the same time acquires the Robert Stemmler brand. Consulting winemaker Ken Bernards works with Moller-Racke and current winemaker Kenneth Juhasz to create elegant Pinots with complexity and character. Robert Stemmler Pinot bottlings include an estate bottling and vineyard designates from Nugent Vineyard in the Russian River Valley and the Ferguson Block in Carneros.

Robert Stemmler

Pinot Noir Carneros 2003

Medium ruby color; rich, ripe red cherry aromas with some spicy notes; ripe, lush, red cherry and spice flavors, silky texture, sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Rich and ripe, this is a terrific example of balanced and delicate Pinot. Kenneth Juhasz is the winemaker.

2,500 cases made \$36 Score: 93

Robert Stemmler

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Nugent Vineyard 2003

Medium ruby color; spicy cherry and forest floor aromas; rich and deep, with dusty red cherry, forest floor and spice flavors; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich, complex and full of flavor, this is a great Pinot for the table.

1,300 cases made \$40 Score: 93

Savannah-Chanelle Vineyards

Savannah-Chanelle's winery and vineyard site was actually established in 1892 by French immigrant Pierre Pourroy on a plateau in the Santa Cruz Mountains, four miles from the cities of Saratoga and Los Gatos. The current estate sits on 58 acres; Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel and Chardonnay are planted in the estate vineyards. Michael and Kellie Ballard purchased the property in 1996, naming it after their two daughters. Production is in the range of 8,000 to 10,000 cases per year. Tony Craig (also of Sonnet Wine cellars) has really brought these wines up several notches since taking over as winemaker. His Pinot Noir bottlings include vineyards from the Sonoma Coast, Arroyo Grande Valley, Santa Lucia Highlands and from the winery's estate vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Savannah-Chanelle

Pinot Noir Arroyo Grande Laetitia Vineyard 2003

Medium deep ruby color; spicy, earthy black cherry aromas; rich, ripe, deep and complex black cherry flavors, with earthy, forest floor notes; great structure and balance; long finish. This is a big and interesting Pinot with lots of complex flavors, yet it's balanced and stays focused.

n/a cases made \$35 Score: 93

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Savannah-Chanelle

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Tina Marie Vineyard 2003

Medium ruby color; deep black cherry and plum aromas with some smoky notes; ripe black cherry, earth and spice flavors, smoky notes, sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Earthy, ripe style that should work just right with some grilled meats or an earthy pasta.

n/a cases made \$50 Score: 90

Savannah-Chanelle

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Armagh Vineyard 2003

Medium deep ruby color; ripe cherry, raspberry aromas, some earthy notes; ripe and rich, bright cherry and raspberry flavors, spicy, sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Bright and spicy Pinot that's just delicious to drink by itself.

n/a cases made \$35 Score: 91

Stewart Cellars

Stewart Cellars was founded in 2000 by Michael and Anne Stewart of Houston, Texas. They wanted to produce great Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Russian River Pinot Noir. Michael founded Texas MicroSystems in 1975 and left the company after merging it with Radisys Corp. He took his long-time interest in wine and purchased a majority interest in Juliana Vineyards in the Pope Valley. He started Stewart Cellars in 2000 with a small release of Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon. Michael's winemaker for Stewart Cellars is Paul Hobbs. His Pinot Noir is sourced from Gibson Vineyard in the western Russian River Valley between Graton and Forestville.

Stewart Cellars

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2004

Medium deep ruby color; delicate red cherry, spice and toasty oak aromas; rich, ripe delicate red cherry flavors, with spicy, oaky notes; silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Delicate and spicy, this is a delicious, silky Pinot that's perfect for the table.

n/a cases made \$42 Score: 93

Stubbs Vineyard

In 1996, The Stubbs family planted 11 acres of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in the valley below their home, a few miles inland from Tomales Bay in western Marin County, an incredibly cool place to grow Pinot that results in deep, intense fruit with great acidity. For several years, the fruit was sold to other wineries in Napa, Sonoma and Marin counties. Eventually Mary Stubbs decided it was time to make their own wines and hired Dan Goldfield (Dutton-Goldfield) to make the wines. The Stubbs Vineyard Pinot is deep and intense with really nice

complexity—well worthy of your attention.

Stubbs Vineyard

Pinot Noir Marin County 2004

Medium deep ruby color; deep, earthy aromas with some cherry notes; ripe, earthy, red cherry notes, some silkiness; great structure and balance; long finish. This Pinot is rich and ripe with a good core of red cherry fruit.

600 cases made \$36 Score: 90

Talisman Cellars

Scott Rich has been winemaker for Mont St. John, Carneros Creek Winery and Etude; he's a successful consulting winemaker for wineries in Chile, he's also winemaker and general manager of Moraga Vineyards in Southern California. He and his wife Marta founded Talisman Cellars to be a small-lot Pinot Noir specialist winery. Scott's experience and intuition about wine and Pinot in particular are reflected in his wines; they are soulful, deep expressions of the vineyard. Talisman's Pinot bottlings include a regional Carneros bottling and vineyard designates from the Thorn Ridge Vineyard and Ted's Vineyard in Russian River Valley, Red Dog Vineyard on Sonoma Mountain and Wildcat Mountain Vineyard in Carneros. They are all well-worth your attention.

Talisman Cellars

Pinot Noir Carneros Wildcat Mountain Vineyard 2004

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dense, complex aromas of forest floor and black cherry; ripe, rich, deep complex earthy, forest floor, black cherry flavors, some tannin and toasty oak; great structure and balance; long finish. A deep and delicious Pinot with good structure—perfect for some grilled meats.

207 cases made \$40 Score: 92

Talisman Cellars

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Ted's Vineyard 2004

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, red cherry aromas, slight smokiness; rich, deep, earthy, dusty red cherry, some smokiness; complex and silky; great structure and balance; long finish. Earthy and complex, with great depth and interest with or without food.

208 cases made \$42 Score: 93

Talisman Cellars

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Thorn Ridge Vineyard 2004

Please see "Make Room In The Cellar!" on page 4.

Talisman Cellars

Pinot Noir Sonoma Mountain Red Dog Vineyard 2004

Deep ruby color; deep, spicy, dense, some black pepper

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

aromas; ripe, rich, deep, dusty cherry, earthy and forest floor, some pepper, tannin and oak notes; great structure and balance; long finish. Big and deep, this Pinot has the structure and dense fruit that comes from its mountain heritage.

208 cases made \$46 Score: 92

TAZ Vineyards

TAZ Vineyards gets its name from the nickname of founder Bob "Taz" Steinhauer. Steinhauer earned that nickname (short for Tasmanian Devil) by his feverish approach to vineyard development first in the Napa Valley and later in the Central Coast as the senior executive in charge of vineyard development for Beringer Blass, then owner of TAZ Vineyard. Steinhauer was also instrumental in developing, in partnership with Fiddlehead Cellars' Kathy Joseph, the Fiddlestix Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills. TAZ Vineyards winemaker Natasha Boffman, with experience in California and Australia, crafts the TAZ Pinots in a style that is bold, yet balanced. Pinot bottlings include a regional Santa Barbara County blend and vineyard designates from Fiddlestix and the Cuyama River bottling from the North Canyon Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley.

Taz Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Cuyama Vineyard 2004

Medium deep ruby color; deep, ripe, rich black cherry and plum aromas; big, rich, ripe black cherry, lush texture; sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Delicious, ripe Pinot with a lot to like in terms of sheer flavor.

429 cases made \$28 Score: 93

Vino V

Michael and Anita Meagher started Vino V in 2004, in the Santa Barbara County city of Ventura, focused on making handcrafted wines from the cooler growing regions in that county. Prior to launching Vino V, Michael spent 15 years making wine with Jeffrey Patterson of Mount Eden Vineyards and Adam Tolmach of The Ojai Vineyard. Vino V produces Syrah, Pinot Noir and Confundido, a red blend of Syrah, Pinot Noir and Grenache. Michael's Pinot comes from the Clos Pepe Vineyard and is big and inky in style, with good structure.

Vino V Wines

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2004

Deep ruby color; deep, dense, ripe cherry and plum aromas, almost jammy; deep, dark, jammy black cherry and plum flavors, moderate tannin, toasty oak; long finish. Very big and jammy style of Pinot, heading toward the Syrah side of things.

75 cases made \$47 Score: 88

Willowbrook Cellars

Willowbrook Cellars was founded in 2001 and has been producing Russian River Pinot Noir and Chardonnay since. In the first two vintages, 2001 and 2002, Willowbrook sourced fruit from the Owl Ridge Vineyard in Forestville. Beginning in 2003, additional fruit was sourced from the Dutton Morelli vineyard and in 2005, Pinot Noir from the Kastania Vineyard in southern Sonoma County was added to the lineup.

Willowbrook Cellars

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Dutton-Morelli Vineyard 2004

Medium ruby color; spicy, earthy, cherry aromas; spicy, herbal, cherry flavors with a hint of cheese rind; lingering finish. Spicy and herbal Pinot with a soft finish.

334 cases made \$42 Score: 88

Willowbrook Cellars

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Owl Ridge Vineyard 2003

Medium deep ruby color; spicy, earthy, herbal aromas; ripe and rich with spicy earthy flavors, bit herbal, some oak notes; lingering finish. Herbal and spicy; this is a middle weight Pinot for the table.

250 cases made \$40 Score: 89

Contacting The Winery

Below is contact information for wines reviewed in this issue.

Anthill Farms

707.490.5191, www.anthillfarms.com

Black Kite Cellars

415.923.0277, www.blackkitecellars.com

Chateau St. Jean

707.833.4134, www.chateaustjean.com

Dierberg

805.693.0744, www.dierbergvineyard.com

Domaine Carneros

707.257.0101, www.domainecarneros.com

Dutton Estate Winery

707.829.9463, www.sebastopolvineyards.com

Gary Farrell

707.473.2900, www.garyfarrell.com

Gloria Ferrer

707.996.7256, www.gloriaferrer.com

Hawley

707.431.2705, www.hawleywine.com

Hendry Winery

707.226.8320, www.hendrywines.com

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Kasuari Wines

707.578.2093, www.kasuariwine.com

Larson Family Winery

707.938.3031, www.larsonfamilywinery.com

LaTour Vineyards

415.955.5401, www.latourvineyards.com

Meridian Vineyards

805.226.7133, www.meridianvineyards.com

Miner Family Vineyards

707.944.9500, www.minerwines.com

Montinore Vineyards

503.359.5012, www.montinore.com

Papapietro Perry Winery

707.433.0422, www.papapietro-perry.com

Paul Mathew Vineyards

707.865.2505, www.paulmathewvineyards.com

Phillips Hill

707.877.1151, www.phillipshillestates.com

Rideau Vineyard

805.688.0717, www.rideauvineyard.com

Robert Stemmler

707.939.2293, www.robertstemmlerwinery.com

Savannah-Chanelle Vineyards

408.741.2933, www.savannahchanelle.com

Stewart Cellars

707.963.9160, www.stewartcellars.com

Stubbs Vineyards

707.773.3288, www.stubbsvineyard.com

Talisman Cellars

707.258.5722, www.talismanwine.com

TAZ Vineyards

888.544.3223, www.tazvineyards.com

Vino V

805.207.7428, www.vinovwines.com

Willowbrook Cellars

707.823.0149, www.willowbrookcellars.com

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For People Passionate About Western Pinot Noir

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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 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

96-100	SUPERIOR; it doesn't get better.
90-95	OUTSTANDING; approaching the best
86-89	ABOVE AVERAGE; a very good Pinot.
80-85	AVERAGE; OK if it's all you have.
60-79	BELOW AVERAGE; not recommended.
50-59	UNDRINKABLE.

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