

# PINOTREPORT

for people passionate about western pinot noir

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## INSIDE

### IN THE MARKET

*Great Pinots to buy, drink right now or add to your cellar for a few years.*

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## 2007 Harvest Underway...

**THE 2007 HARVEST IN WESTERN PINOT COUNTRY IS UNDERWAY...WELL, SORT OF.** Back in early August, when I began to ask vintners and growers how they thought the harvest was going to play out this year, I got a wide range of predictions, ranging from “very early” to “not even close.”

So, here in the middle of September, where do we stand? Here’s a quick update, moving from north to south. In **Oregon**, things are really just getting started and will pick up speed from here. In California’s **Anderson Valley**, a heat spike in August had vintners harvesting Pinot for sparkling wines before sugars got too high; September brought back the fog and slowed down the harvest for still Pinot.

In the **Russian River Valley**, quite a bit of Pinot has already been harvested. Crop levels are down significantly, but quality is very high. By contrast, **Santa Lucia Highlands** and the **Santa Rita Hills** are just getting started.

**Quantity in some areas** is reported to be down by 20 percent to more than 30 percent from 2006. Just about everyone I spoke with is **very happy with the quality** of the fruit they’ve seen so far, despite the reduced crop. More to come...

In this issue, I’ve got some terrific wines to share with you from producers well known and not-so-well-known including: **Belle Glos, Benton-Lane, Carr Vineyards, Dobbles Family Estate, Domaine Serene, El Molino, Freeman, The Gainey Vineyard, Lane Tanner, Lockwood, MacMurray Ranch, MacRostie, Michaud, Radio-Coteau, Siduri, Stephen's Cellar, Toad Hall Cellars, Twin Oaks Cellars, Waltzing Bear and Zepaltas Wines.**

Also, please see page 4 for more information on the **2007 Pinot On The River Festival**, a special Pinot Noir event I co-produce coming up **October 26-28** in the Russian River Valley—it’s a great weekend of Pinot!

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

-- Gregory S. Walter, editor and publisher



### WINNER

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

## 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.

### Belle Glos

Belle Glos is a partnership between Chuck Wagner (Caymus Vineyards) and his son, Joseph Wagner. Grape sources for Belle Glos Pinot include Clark & Telephone Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley, Las Alturas in Santa Lucia Highlands and Taylor Lane Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast.

#### Belle Glos

**Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Las Alturas Vineyard 2005**

Deep ruby color; spicy, earthy cherry aromas; ripe, bright red cherry flavors, rich, silky texture, some earthy notes; sweet oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. This Pinot is full of silky texture and delicious flavors—sweet oak adds interest and complexity.

**1,325 cases made     \$50     Score: 93**

#### Belle Glos

**Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Clark & Telephone Vineyard 2005**

Deep ruby color; deep, rich, ripe stewed cherry aromas with smoky notes; ripe, rich, very deep and complex stewed cherry flavors, smoky, earthy notes; some tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Ripe, smoky flavors make this Pinot great for grilled meats and earthy dishes.

**2,250 cases made     \$38     Score: 94**

## MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

*"Incredible depth and complexity..."*

#### Freeman Vineyards & Winery

**Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Akiko's Cuvee 2005**

Deep ruby color; slightly closed on the nose, but deep, blackcherry, spice and tea aromas are present; deep, full and rich black cherry, spice and earthy notes, intense flavors; sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. The depth of flavor and complexity of this Pinot is incredible -- it's a bit closed, but with an hour or more of air it opens up nicely. Great for the cellar; great for the table!

**375 cases made     \$48     Score: 96**

### Belle Glos

**Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Taylor Lane Vineyard 2005**

Deep ruby color; red cherry and spice aromas; rich, ripe, red cherry flavors, earthy notes with some tannin and oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Spicy, rich Pinot with a lot of interesting flavors. Great with food or on its own.

**500 cases made     \$50     Score: 93**

### Benton-Lane Winery

Benton Lane Winery is the venture of Steve and Carol Girard, who set out in the 1980s to find a place to make great Pinot Noir—his studies led him to an area in the Willamette Valley between the cities of Eugene and Corvallis where he felt that the conditions would be just right. After an extensive search, they purchased an old sheep ranch and began planting Pinot Noir in 1989. Today, Benton Lane has 126 acres of Pinot Noir and produces around 20,000 cases. Winemaker Tim Wilson makes a silky, elegant style of Pinot.

#### Benton-Lane Winery

**Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2003**

Medium ruby color; spicy, deep black cherry aromas; rich, ripe and spicy black cherry fruit with a nice touch of oak and a silky mouthfeel; good structure and balance; long finish. Ripe, rich and spicy flavors make this an interesting Pinot for the table.

**1,490 cases made     \$40     Score: 88**

### Carr Vineyards & Winery

Ryan Carr studied and graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in graphic arts. Shortly thereafter he decided to move to the Santa Ynez Valley to make wine. In 1999 he made his first wine—10 cases—in his garage. He and his friend Andy Kahn (Kahn Winery) decided to start a vineyard development company so that they could develop source vineyards for their respective winemaking efforts and at the same time he became Andy Kahn's assistant winemaker to

## SMART BUY!

*"Bright and spicy..."*

#### Lane Tanner

**Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County 2005**

Medium ruby color; deep, cherry and spice aromas; ripe, bright red cherry fruit, spicy notes, good structure and balance; long finish. Bright and spicy flavors make this a great Pinot for a wide range of foods.

**556 cases made     \$24     Score: 93**

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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further hone his craft. Ryan's Carr Vineyards & Winery operation is located in downtown Santa Barbara in an old 1940s Quonset hut that's been outfitted on the inside to look like the inside of a cave. In addition to Pinot Noir, Ryan makes Cabernet Franc, Syrah and Pinot Gris. His Pinot bottlings include a regional Santa Rita Hills blend and vineyard designates from the Clos Pepe Vineyard and the Turner Vineyard, both in Santa Rita Hills.

### Carr Vineyards & Winery

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2005*

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Medium deep ruby color; complex, cinnamon, spice, clove aromas; rich, ripe, lush black cherry, earthy, spice, clove notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and complex, this Pinot has a great deal of interesting nuance; needs time to open up.

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**98 cases made      \$40      Score: 92**

### Carr Vineyards & Winery

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Turner Vineyard 2005*

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Medium deep ruby color; deep, bit closed and tight, some plum notes; deep, black cherry and plum flavors, spice and pepper notes; some tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Big, deep and rich; this Pinot definitely needs time to open up and is worth the wait.

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**217 cases made      \$35      Score: 92**

### Carr Vineyards & Winery

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Three Vineyards 2005*

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Medium deep ruby color; ripe, cherry and savory spice aromas; rich, ripe, lush black cherry flavors, nice savory spice notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Delicious and lush fruit make this a delight to drink and a great Pinot for the table.

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**416 cases made      \$30      Score: 93**

### Dobbes Family Estate

Joe Dobbes brings a long resume of experience to his own oregon-based Dobbes Family Estate venture. His winemaking apprenticeships were in Germany (Wiengut Erbhof Tesch) and Burgundy (Domaine G. Roumier and Domaine Comtes Lafon); in Oregon he has worked for Elk Cove Vineyards, Eola Hills, Hinman/Sylvan Ridge, Paschal Winery and Willamette Valley Vineyards. In 2002 he created Wine by Joe LLC as an umbrella for three of his own labels: Dobbes Family, Wine by Joe and Jovino Pinot Noir. Under the Dobbes Family label he produces Pinot Noir from the Willamette Valley and from the Rogue Valley in Southern Oregon. He also produces Syrah, Pinot Gris and Viognier. His Pinots are texture drive with a lot of interesting and complex flavors. Dobbes Family Pinot bottlings include three blended Pinots—the Grand Assemblage, Griffins Cuvee and Skipper's Cuvee—

and one vineyard designate from the Quailhurst Vineyard in the Willamette Valley.

### Dobbes Family Estate

#### *Pinot Noir Oregon Grande Assemblage Cuvee 2004*

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Medium-deep ruby color; nice aromas of black cherry, spice and toasty oak; rich, ripe full black cherry flavors with spicy notes, a touch of toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Ripe, rich and round flavors make this a terrific Pinot for the table.

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**645 cases made      \$24      Score: 91**

### Dobbes Family Estate

#### *Pinot Noir Rogue Valley Skipper's Cuvee 2004*

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Medium-deep ruby color; bright, forward aromas of strawberry and cherry; ripe, bright fruit with spicy notes, and a touch of toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Bright and spicy flavors mark this Pinot sourced from Rogue Valley vineyards in Southern Oregon. The wine is named for Joe Dobbes' daughter Amelia's nickname—Skipper.

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**223 cases made      \$28      Score: 89**

### Dobbes Family Estate

#### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Quailhurst Vineyard 2004*

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Medium ruby color; complex aromas of red cherry, spice and forest floor; rich, ripe full red cherry flavors with layers of spice, earthy and forest floor notes, silky, with toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex and very deep, this is a Pinot with great potential. It needs a bunch of time in the glass to open up.

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**75 cases made      \$65      Score: 92**

### Dobbes Family Estate

#### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Griffin's Cuvee 2003*

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Medium-deep ruby color; intense aromas of blackberry and cherry, lots of spice and toast on the nose; full, rich and deep with a solid core of black fruit, moderate tannin and oak; good structure and balance; long finish. A big and rich Pinot that balances deep fruit with moderate tannin and oak. Needs a lot of air to open up and will reward some patience in the cellar.

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**220 cases made      \$45      Score: 90**

### Wine By Joe

#### *Pinot Noir Oregon 2005*

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Deep ruby color; lots of spice and black cherry aromas; bright, silky black cherry flavors with a touch of spicy, sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Spicy and rich Pinot with a lot to offer. A blend of Pinot vineyards from Willamette Valley and from the Rogue Valley in Southern Oregon.

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**3,000 cases made      \$18      Score: 88**

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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### Domaine Serene

Domaine Serene sits on top of a hill in the Dundee Hills region of the Willamette Valley with stunning views of the surrounding Oregon wine country. Ken and Grace Evenstad founded the winery in 1989 with one goal in mind: making outstanding Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Winemaker Tony Rynders works with estate vineyards to produce very low crop levels and very high flavor concentration. His winemaking practices are minimal intervention with small lots kept separate and only gentle gravity flow movement of wine. Total production at Domaine Serene is approximately 10,000 cases. The winery's Pinot bottlings include its flagship Evenstad Reserve, the Yamhill Cuvee and various single-vineyard bottlings including Mark Bradford Vineyard and Grace Vineyard. The Domaine Serene Pinots are deep and complex, yet supple and very well balanced.

#### Domaine Serene

##### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Evenstad Reserve 2003*

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Medium deep ruby color; deep, restrained and a bit tight on the nose; earthy, tight, some tannin with the black cherry and blueberry flavors; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex and deep Pinot that needs time to open up in the glass and will gain in the bottle.

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**5,500 cases made     \$52     Score: 92**

#### Domaine Serene

##### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Jerusalem Hill 2003*

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Medium deep ruby color; deep, ripe stewed cherry fruit and earthy notes; big, rich stewed cherry fruit, nice earthy notes, some tannin, good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and rich Pinot with the earthy complexity to match with a rustic pasta or grilled meats.

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**481 cases made     \$75     Score: 93**

### MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

*"Balanced with great structure..."*

#### Radio-Coteau

##### *Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy 2005*

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, rich, ripe earthy and stewed cherry aromas; big, full and rich, dusty, stewed cherry flavors with complex earthy notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Balance, earthy Pinot that has great fruit and the structure to age. Needs time in the bottle and in the glass to open up.

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**480 cases made     \$50     Score: 96**

### Domaine Serene

##### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Mark Bradford 2003*

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Medium deep ruby color; deep, complex, earthy and oak aromas; big, rich, full stewed cherry and earthy flavors; peppery notes; touch of tannin and oak; good structure and balance; long finish. A big and earthy Pinot that needs time to open up in the glass.

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**500 cases made     \$90     Score: 92**

### Domaine Serene

##### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Winery Hill 2003*

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Medium deep ruby color; deep, earthy, stewed cherry aromas, spicy notes; ripe, rich, deep and complex cherry and earthy flavors; some tannin and oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich, deep and complex Pinot with a whole lot to offer. Lots of complex layers waiting to be explored.

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**570 cases made     \$75     Score: 94**

### Domaine Serene

##### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Yamhill Cuvee 2004*

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Medium ruby color; spicy, toasty oak, some black cherry and earthy aromas; ripe, rich, deep black cherry, lush texture, good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and ripe Pinot with lots of deep fruit—perfect for the table.

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**1,400 cases made     \$35     Score: 92**

### El Molino Winery

The El Molino winery was founded in 1871 by W.W. Lyman, and operated until Prohibition would shut its doors for more than a half century. Following a successful career on Wall Street, Reginald Oliver purchased and refurbished the long-unused winery and re-launched the El Molino brand in 1981, with his first commercial Pinot Noir and Chardonnay coming in the mid-1980s. Production is roughly 2,000 cases with about half of that in Pinot Noir. Reg Oliver was a maverick in many ways, and remained under the radar producing great Pinot

### SMART BUY!

*"Bright flavors..."*

#### Siduri Wines

##### *Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2006*

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Medium ruby color; bright, raspberry, cherry fruit aromas; bright, rich cherry flavors, nice complexity from sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Delicious lighter-bodied Pinot with a lot of bright flavors.

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**1,744 cases made     \$19     Score: 90**

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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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. El Molino's Pinot Noirs are consistently among the very best made in Napa Valley each year. They 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. Reg Oliver died of melanoma in 2005 at the age of 66. His daughter Lily Oliver carries on the work at El Molino and with her at the helm, we can be sure that his legacy will continue.

### **El Molino Winery** ***Pinot Noir Rutherford 2004***

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Medium ruby color; earthy, spice red cherry aromas; rich, ripe, dusty red cherry flavors with spice and earthy notes; sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy and spicy, this is a complex Pinot with a lot of interesting character.

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**873 cases made      \$55      Score: 93**

### **Freeman Vineyards & Winery**

Ken and Akiko Freeman are both card-carrying Pinot fanatics. They launched Freeman Vineyards to produce singularly elegant Pinot Noir and, boy, have they achieved that goal. The third member of the Freeman team is Winemaker Ed Kurtzman (formerly of Chalone, Testarossa and currently also partner and winemaker at August West Wines). Ed and the Freemans have really dialed in on a beautiful, focused style of Pinot. The three of them work together in just about every aspect of the winemaking process. But in many ways it's Ed's amazing affinity and intuition for Pinot that translates their collective vision into wines that really sing. Freeman Pinots are sourced from several Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley vineyards including Bailey Vineyard, Guidici Vineyard, Keefer Ranch, Meredith Estate, O'Connor Vineyard, Rayhill Vineyard and Thorn Ridge. Pinot bottlings include regional Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley blends, a vineyard designate from Keefer Ranch and the Akiko's Cuvee. The style is deep, lush, spicy fruit with great structure and silky, silky texture.

### **Freeman Vineyards & Winery** ***Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Keefer Ranch Vineyard 2005***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, complex spice and cherry aromas; plush and rich with a core of juicy cherry fruit; lots of cinnamon, spice and sweet oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Amazing depth, plush fruit and great structure that produces layers and layers of flavor.

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**440 cases made      \$45      Score: 96**

### **Freeman Vineyards & Winery** ***Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2005***

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Medium-deep ruby color; cinnamon, spice and black cherry aromas; lush, rich and full black cherry fruit with spice, cinnamon notes and a touch of sweet oak; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Lush and rich, this Pinot is so silky in the mouth that you might want to just drink it by itself.

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**814 cases made      \$38      Score: 94**

### **Freeman Vineyards & Winery** ***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2005***

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Deep ruby color; spicy, black cherry, plum and tea aromas; deep, full and rich black cherry fruit with spices, tea and earthy notes; bit of toasty oak, great structure and balance; long finish. This Pinot has great depth and structure that will allow it to improve in the cellar. If you drink it now, give it some air and pair it with grilled meats or an earthy mushroom pasta.

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**858 cases made      \$38      Score: 94**

### **Freeman Vineyards & Winery** ***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Akiko's Cuvee 2005***

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

### **The Gainey Vineyard**

The Gainey family has been farming and ranching in Santa Barbara for more than four decades. Dan C. Gainey and his son Dan J. Gainey purchased and 1,800-acre ranch at the eastern end of the Santa Ynez Valley and turned it into one of the largest diversified agricultural operations in the area. In the early 1980s, Dan J. and his son Dan H. Gainey planted 50 acres in grapes and opened their Gainey Vineyard winery in 1984. In the early 1990s, the Gaineys were among the first to recognize the potential of the area that would become the Santa Rita Hills and established a vineyard along Santa Rosa Road, planting it to Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Syrah. The winery's production is 18,000 cases annually, including Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Pinot Noir and Syrah. Winemaker Kirby Anderson produces a Limited Selection bottling Pinot Noir that is a blend of several vineyard sources in Santa Rita Hills.

### **The Gainey Vineyard** ***Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Limited Selection 2004***

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Deep ruby color; deep, complex black cherry and pepper aromas; rich, ripe, black cherry, spice and pepper flavors; complex, sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and complex Pinot with amazing depth and interesting nuance. Needs time to open up in the glass.

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**450 cases made      \$44      Score: 93**

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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### Lane Tanner Winery

Lane Tanner was born and raised in Kelseyville, Calif. in Lake County and received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from San Jose State University in 1976 and subsequently went into the air pollution industry. After leaving that industry in 1980, she returned home and took a job at Konocti Winery labeling bottles. They found out Lane was a chemist and asked her to do some lab work for them. During her first day in the lab she was introduced to their consultant, Andre Tchelistcheff, as the winery's new enologist. Her new career was born. Tchelistcheff recommended Lane for an enology position at Firestone Winery in Santa Barbara County in 1981. In 1984 she started her own company and began making wines for the Hitching Post restaurant. In 1989 she started the Lane Tanner label. Today she produces approximately 1,800 cases of Pinot Noir and Syrah. Her Pinot bottlings include a regional Santa Barbara County bottling and vineyard designates from Bien Nacido Vineyard and Julia's Vineyard, both in Santa Maria Valley.

#### Lane Tanner *Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County 2005*

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Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 2.

#### Lane Tanner *Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2005*

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Medium ruby color; spicy, red cherry aromas; some earthy notes; nice red cherry flavors, with spicy and earthy notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and spicy, this Pinot has the depth to pair well with grilled meats or an earthy pasta.

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**264 cases made      \$30      Score: 93**

#### Lane Tanner *Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Julia's Vineyard 2005*

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Medium ruby color; ripe red cherry aromas, some spicy notes; ripe, rich, bright red cherry fruit; some earthy complexity; good structure and balance; long finish. Bright and complex, this Pinot is simply a delight to drink.

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**375 cases made      \$33      Score: 94**

### Lockwood Vineyard

Lockwood Vineyard was founded in 1989 with the idea of producing great estate-bottled wines from one huge 1,850-acre vineyard at the southern end of Monterey County at the base of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Lockwood's partners, Butch Lindley, Phil Johnson, and R. Paul Toepfen, planted a wide range of grape varieties in the vineyard, which due to its proximity to both Monterey Bay and warmer areas to the south, has a diurnal temperature swing of more than 60 degrees. Larry Gomez is Lockwood's winemaker after stints at J. Lohr in Paso Robles and Wild Horse Winery in Templeton.

Larry's Pinot philosophy is one of "breaking away from oak to show off the unique flavors from our vineyard."

#### Lockwood Vineyard *Pinot Noir San Lucas Block 7 2005*

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Medium ruby color; rich, ripe aromas of red cherry and spice; ripe and rich red cherry flavors with spice notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and ripe Pinot with nice flavors and balance. Great for the table.

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**8,406 cases made      \$20      Score: 90**

### MacMurray Ranch

The land that is MacMurray Ranch today was originally homesteaded by Colonel George Porter, who came to the Russian River Valley in 1846. Porter's family farmed the land for generations until in 1941 actor Fred MacMurray purchased the ranch to raise his family there. The main difference at the ranch between then and now is that vineyards have replaced the pasture land. In 1996, several years after Fred MacMurray's death in 1991, the 1,700-acre ranch was purchased by the E.& J. Gallo winery and the brand created. MacMurray Ranch focuses on Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris, the former being sourced primarily from estate vineyards in the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast, although winemaker Susan Doyle has begun sourcing Pinot from outside the North Coast area, as far away as the Santa Rita Hills.

#### MacMurray Ranch *Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills 2004*

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Deep ruby color; deep, earthy, stewed fruit aromas; ripe, rich, stewed cherry fruit; earthy, some tannin and oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Bigger style of Pinot with solid fruit to balance the moderate tannins.

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**400 cases made      \$35      Score: 90**

### MacRostie Winery and Vineyards

Steve MacRostie has been making Pinot Noir in and around Sonoma and Carneros for three decades, starting his career just out of UC-Davis in 1974 at Hacienda Wine Cellars. In 1987 he founded MacRostie Winery to focus on Chardonnay, Merlot and Pinot Noir from the Sonoma side of the Carneros region. In 1998 he planted his first estate vineyard on Wildcat Mountain in the western highlands of Carneros. Today he produces Chardonnay, Merlot, Syrah and Pinot Noir, in a balanced, high toned style. His first wines from his Wildcat Mountain Vineyard—Syrah and Pinot Noir—are deep and complex and promise even more interesting wines to come.

#### MacRostie Winery & Vineyards *Pinot Noir Carneros 2004*

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Deep ruby color; bright, rich red cherry fruit and spice aromas;

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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complex earthy notes, some toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Delicious red cherry fruit and great balance make this Pinot from Steve MacRostie really fun to drink.

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**4,000 cases made     \$28     Score: 93**

### MacRostie Winery & Vineyards

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Wildcat Mountain Vineyard 2004***

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Deep ruby color; deep, smoky, earthy aromas; ripe and rich black cherry flavors, deep, smoky, earthy notes; complex and silky; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and deep, I love the amazing smoky black cherry flavors—a great match for grilled meats.

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**595 cases made     \$42     Score: 94**

### Michaud Vineyard

Michaud Vineyard was established in 1997 by Michael Michaud and his wife Carol Hastings in the cooler northern end of the Chalone Appellation. Michael's familiarity with that small but significant appellation for Pinot Noir is his 19 years working at Chalone Vineyard, first under co-founder Richard Graff and then as winemaker for the estate. The Michaud Vineyard sits at 1,500 feet and is planted to Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah, Sangiovese and Pinot Blanc. Rainfall in the area is a scarce 12 to 15 inches per year. In 1998, Michael left Chalone to focus full time on his own project. Carol's background is in wine sales and marketing. The Michaud Pinots are all estate grown and are deep, full bodied wines that need time to open up.

### Michaud Vineyard

***Pinot Noir Chalone 2003***

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Deep ruby color; deep, earthy, oaky aromas; ripe and rich cherry and vanilla flavors, moderate tannin and oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Big and deep Pinot with moderate tannin and oak.

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**1,126 cases made     \$38     Score: 91**

### Radio-Coteau

There's no mistaking Eric Sussman's passion for Pinot Noir. You only need to visit with him for a few minutes to feel his intensity. He's equally passionate—and selective—about the vineyards he sources for his Radio-Coteau Pinots, as well as his devotion to a minimalist approach to winemaking. The New York state native began his journey in wine while studying agriculture at Cornell University. His fascination for the connection between wine and its place of origin led him first to work for a small winery in Washington state. He then apprenticed for two years in Bordeaux and Burgundy, and returning to the United States, Eric eventually went on to work

at Dehlinger Winery in Russian River Valley. It was working with Tom Dehlinger from the 1998 through 2001 vintages that focused Eric solidly on the potential for Pinot Noir in western Sonoma County. There's no question in my mind that Eric is making some of the best Pinots I've tasted in a long time. If Eric's wines aren't in your cellar yet, find a way to get them there.

### Radio-Coteau

***Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy 2005***

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

### Radio-Coteau

***Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Alberigi 2005***

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Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, deep red cherry, earth and clove aromas; rich, ripe, deep red cherry, earth and spice flavors, deep and complex; silky texture; some toasty oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and very complex Pinot—this has the silky rich flavor you'd expect from Russian River Valley.

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**390 cases made     \$45     Score: 93**

### Radio-Coteau

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Terra Neuma 2005***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, complex spice, black cherry and earth aromas; ripe, rich, deep and complex black cherry flavors with earthy, forest floor notes, spicy and with an unexpected silkiness; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep with layers of complexity, this is a Pinot that tastes great now, but will improve in your cellar. Make sure you open it an hour before you want to drink it.

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**59 cases made     \$50     Score: 95**

### Radio-Coteau

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast La Neblina 2005***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep cherry and earthy, forest floor aromas; rich, ripe, deep black cherry, earthy, cinnamon and spice flavors, deep, complex forest floor notes; silky texture; some toasty oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex and full of flavors, this beautifully layered Pinot really shows off the pedigree of Pinot from the real Sonoma Coast.

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**1,740 cases made     \$42     Score: 94**

### Siduri Wines

Adam and Dianna Lee made their first Pinot Noir together in 1994. The tiny-production wine was well received and Siduri soon had developed cult status among Pinot lovers. More than a decade later, after a lot of time on the road and in the cellar, the hard work is really paying off with mainstream acceptance of their artisan Pinots. Adam and Dianna really know how to make delicious, complex Pinot Noir. Their Pinot bottlings are

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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sourced from a wide variety of vineyards in the Willamette Valley, Sonoma Coast, Russian River Valley, Santa Lucia Highlands and Santa Rita Hills, both as vineyard designates and as regional appellation blends. Siduri has become a benchmark for great Pinot from up and down the West Coast.

### Siduri Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains 2006*

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Medium ruby color; deep, smoky, spicy aromas; ripe, rich cherry flavors with spice and some smoky oak; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and smoky flavors make this a perfect match for grilled meats.

**621 cases made      \$29      Score: 91**

### Siduri Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2006*

---

Medium ruby color; ripe, spicy cherry aromas; ripe, rich red cherry flavors, medium bodied, spicy notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Spicy, rich cherry flavors, this is a nice Pinot for a wide variety of meals.

**789 cases made      \$29      Score: 90**

### Siduri Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands 2006*

---

Medium ruby color; deep, slightly closed, black cherry and smoky aromas; ripe, rich, smoky cherry flavors, complex, silky texture; toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex and interesting style with good depth and structure.

**1,405 cases made      \$32      Score: 92**

### Siduri Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills 2006*

---

Medium ruby color; deep, black cherry aromas with spice and pepper; ripe and rich, black cherry flavors, spice and pepper notes; some tannin and toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Bigger style with delicious black cherry, spice and pepper flavors. Needs a little time in the glass to open up.

**276 cases made      \$29      Score: 92**

### Siduri Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2006*

---

Medium ruby color; deep, complex, spicy and earthy aromas; deep, rich, silky black cherry flavors, spicy, earthy notes; sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and ripe Pinot with nice sweet oak and complex flavors.

**757 cases made      \$29      Score: 91**

### Siduri Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2006*

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Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 4.

### Siduri Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2006*

---

Medium ruby color; spicy, red cherry aromas; lighter bodied, bright cherry flavors, light touch of toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Bright and tasty, this Pinot has a lot of versatility at the table.

**1,794 cases made      \$19      Score: 89**

### Stephen's Cellar

Stephen's Cellar is the wine venture of Stephen Goldman, who with his father Max was the former owner of York Mountain Winery and the original petitioner to establish the York Mountain AVA near Paso Robles. Stephen established the label in 1994 and later with his wife Lori established the brand and estate vineyard in 2002 to focus on Pinot Noir, though other varieties are in the works. The estate vineyard was planted on a northerly slope 1,500 feet above sea level about seven miles from the ocean. Vineyard sources until the estate vineyard is fully producing are from other established local vineyards. Stephen is a very limited-interventionist winemaker the style of his Pinots reflect that.

### Stephen's Cellar

#### *Pinot Noir San Luis Obispo County Encell Vineyard 2004*

---

Medium ruby color; deep, earthy aromas; stewed cherry and very earthy flavors; moderate tannin and oak; long finish. Deep and earthy Pinot with tannin and oak that calls for a hearty match at the table.

**220 cases made      \$28      Score: 87**

### Stephen's Cellar

#### *Pinot Noir San Luis Obispo County Lauphney-Stromsoe Vineyards 2004*

---

Medium ruby color; spicy clove and cherry aromas; spicy, cherry, clove and cinnamon flavors, earthy notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Lighter bodied, elegant and spicy Pinot with lots of interesting flavors.

**80 cases made      \$24      Score: 90**

### Stephen's Cellar

#### *Pinot Noir San Luis Obispo County Moore Vineyard 2004*

---

Medium ruby color; clove, savory spices with some cherry aromas; ripe, spicy cherry flavors with savory spice notes; slightly tannic with toasty oak; long finish. Spicy and earthy Pinot, pair with grilled meats.

**180 cases made      \$26      Score: 89**

### Toad Hall Cellars

Toad Hall Cellars is owned by Otto and Nat Komes, along with parents John and Carrie Komes (also the owners of Flora

## IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

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Springs Winery). Toad Hall was first a family project—starting out in 1984 with 10 cases of Chardonnay. Now it focuses on Bordeaux varieties from Napa Valley and Pinot Noir from the Carneros region. Pinot bottlings include a vineyard designate from the estate Lavender Hill Vineyard, a Carneros blend called Willow Pond and a Dijon Clones bottling.

### Toad Hall Cellars

#### *Pinot Noir Carneros Willow Pond 2005*

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Medium ruby color; spicy red cherry, clove and cinnamon aromas; rich and ripe red cherry fruit flavors, spice, cinnamon and earthy notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Spice and cherry fruit make this a very pleasant Pinot.

**350 cases made      \$25      Score: 91**

### Toad Hall Cellars

#### *Pinot Noir Carneros Lavender Hill 2005*

---

Medium ruby color; deep black cherry, tea, clove aromas; deep, rich and ripe black cherry flavors, lots of earthy spice and sweet oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Very interesting and complex Carneros Pinot with nice layering of flavors.

**425 cases made      \$40      Score: 92**

### Twin Oaks Cellars

While Mark and Sue Weiner have been making their Twin Oaks Cellars wines since 2001, their 2005 vintage of Pinot Noir is their first commercial vintage. Mark has learned winemaking from some of the best Pinot makers in California: Bill Brosseau (Brosseau, Testarossa), Ed Kurtzman (August West, Freeman), Adam Lee (Siduri) and Brian Loring (Loring Wine Company). One of the big things he learned is how important the right vineyard is and he has that part nailed with grape sources such as Amber Ridge Vineyard in Russian River Valley and Sleepy Hollow Vineyard in Santa Lucia Highlands. Mark makes his Twin Oaks Pinot at the Crushpad facility in San Francisco. His Pinots are aromatic, fruit driven and well balanced. Well worth a look.

### Twin Oaks Cellars

#### *Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Amber Ridge Vineyard 2005*

---

Medium ruby color; bright, spicy cherry aromas; rich, ripe, bright red cherry fruit, cinnamon and spice flavors, silky texture, a touch of sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and spicy with good texture make this a great Pinot for a lot of different dishes.

**75 cases made      \$42      Score: 90**

### Waltzing Bear Wines

Brad Lowman is the founder, winemaker and whimsical muse behind Waltzing Bear Wines. Brad's mission is to make small-

lot, vineyard-designated Pinots from vineyards throughout the Central Coast. His first vintage was 2002; his Pinots hail from such stellar vineyards as Garys' Vineyard in Santa Lucia Highlands, Rancho Ontiveros and Solomon Hills in Santa Maria Valley, and the Cargasacchi Jalama vineyard in the Santa Barbara County. Brad makes his wines at Tantara Winery in Santa Maria. Why the name Waltzing Bear? From Brad's website: "Because the waltz is the most elegant dance, and Pinot is the most elegant wine, and Brad is as clumsy as a bear on the dance floor, but still enjoys the elegant things in life!"

### Waltzing Bear Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County Cargasacchi Jalama Vineyard 2004*

---

Medium-deep ruby color; earthy aromas with cherry and herb notes; complex cherry, herb and earthy flavors with some sweet oak notes; good structure and balance, long finish. Earthy and interesting, this is a complex and well-structured Pinot.

**47 cases made      \$45      Score: 91**

### Waltzing Bear Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004*

---

Medium ruby purple color; rich, smoky cherry aromas with deep earthy notes; rich, ripe, a great core of plum and cherry fruit and with sweet oak and a very silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Silky and rich; this is a classic Garys' Vineyard Pinot.

**195 cases made      \$45      Score: 93**

### Waltzing Bear Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard 2004*

---

Medium-deep ruby color; rich, earthy aromas with complex, dusty cherry notes; deep, rich and complex with a great core of red cherry and spice, very silky texture with sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Brad Lowman has really captured the essence of the Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard with this bottling. Deep, rich and silky, it's great to drink now or hold for a few years.

**191 cases made      \$45      Score: 95**

### Waltzing Bear Wines

#### *Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Solomon Hills Vineyard 2004*

---

Deep ruby color; dense earthy and black fruit dominated aromas; deep and complex with black cherry, blueberry and spice flavors; some earthiness as well; forward sweet oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and complex, this is a Pinot that needs considerable time in the glass to open up as well as some time in your cellar to continue to develop.

**266 cases made      \$45      Score: 94**

### Zepaltas Wines

Ryan Zepaltas grew up in Wisconsin drinking beer and can't remember wine ever having been part of his or his family's lives. In 1998, Ryan moved to Sebastopol to live with his aunt and uncle after finishing college studying sales and marketing. He admits that at the time he was much more interested in pursuing a career in skateboarding. Soon he found he needed a job and went to work in the cellar at La Crema. He worked there for a couple of harvests, then found out about harvest opportunities in other countries, most notably in New Zealand where worked at Villa Maria. He came back to the states charged up about making wine and began looking for a small winery where he could work. He landed a position with Adam and Dianna Lee at Siduri and he works there to this day. Zepaltas Wines is a creative offshoot for him and the wines really show it. Ryan's Pinot bottlings include a Sonoma Coast blend and vineyard designates from Suacci Vineyard in Western Sonoma County, La Cruz Vineyard in the Petaluma Gap area and the W.E. Bottoms Vineyard in Russian River Valley.

#### Zepaltas Wines

***Pinot Noir Russian River Valley W.E. Bottoms Vineyard 2005***

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Medium ruby color; deep, spicy red cherry aromas; ripe, rich, spicy red cherry flavors; touch of earth and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Interesting, complex and yet delicate Pinot with silky red cherry flavors.

**71 cases made      \$45      Score: 92**

#### Zepaltas Wines

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2005***

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Medium ruby color; deep, stewed red cherry and spice aromas; rich, ripe, red cherry flavors, silky and delicate, lots of cinnamon and spice; good structure and balance; long finish. Spicy, rich and delicate with lots of interesting notes.

**90 cases made      \$39      Score: 91**

### Contacting The Winery

Below is contact information for wines reviewed in this issue.

#### **Belle Glos**

707.963.4204, [www.belleglos.com](http://www.belleglos.com)

#### **Benton-Lane Winery**

541.847.5792, [www.benton-lane.com](http://www.benton-lane.com)

#### **Carr Vineyards & Winery**

805.965.7985, [www.carrwinery.com](http://www.carrwinery.com)

#### **Dobbes Family Estate**

503.538.1141, [www.dobbesfamilyestate.com](http://www.dobbesfamilyestate.com)

#### **Domaine Serene**

503.864.4600, [www.domaineserene.com](http://www.domaineserene.com)

#### **El Molino Winery**

707.963.3632, [www.elmolinowinery.com](http://www.elmolinowinery.com)

#### **The Gainey Vineyard**

805.688.0558, [www.gaineyvineyard.com](http://www.gaineyvineyard.com)

#### **Freeman Vineyard & Winery**

415.831.4756, [www.freemanwinery.com](http://www.freemanwinery.com)

#### **Lane Tanner Winery**

805.929.1826, [www.lanetannerwinery.com](http://www.lanetannerwinery.com)

#### **Lockwood Vineyards**

800.753.1424, [www.lockwood-wine.com](http://www.lockwood-wine.com)

#### **MacMurray Ranch**

707.431.5507, [www.macmurrayranch.com](http://www.macmurrayranch.com)

#### **MacRostie Winery and Vineyards**

707.996.4480, [www.macrostiewinery.com](http://www.macrostiewinery.com)

#### **Michaud Vineyard**

650.529.0973, [www.michaudvineyard.com](http://www.michaudvineyard.com)

#### **Radio-Coteau**

707.887.8335, [www.radiocoteau.com](http://www.radiocoteau.com)

#### **Siduri Wines**

707.578.3882, [www.siduri.com](http://www.siduri.com)

#### **Stephen's Cellar**

805.238.2412, [www.stephenscellar.com](http://www.stephenscellar.com)

#### **Toad Hall Cellars**

800.913.1118, [www.toadhallcellars.com](http://www.toadhallcellars.com)

#### **Twin Oaks Cellars**

408.356.5998, [www.twinoakcellars.com](http://www.twinoakcellars.com)

#### **Waltzing Bear Wines**

818.370.8955, [www.waltzingbearwines.com](http://www.waltzingbearwines.com)

#### **Zepaltas Wines**

707.827.3040, [www.zepaltaswines.com](http://www.zepaltaswines.com)

[ PNR ]

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Bien Nacido Vineyards  
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## 2007 Pinot On The River Festival

October 26-28, 2007

Join us October 26-28 at the Russian River Vineyards Wine Center in the Russian River Valley town of Forestville for the **Fourth Annual "Pinot On The River" Festival**, a weekend of great food, Pinot tastings and seminars capped off by Sunday's Grand Tasting featuring Pinot Noirs from more than 80 participating West Coast wineries.

### Program Highlights

#### FRIDAY, October 26

- **Event Kickoff:** Pinot On The River's "Friday Night Out In The Valley" Dinners

#### SATURDAY, October 27

- **Seminar Program:** Regional Focus: Russian River Valley; Rising Stars of Pinot Noir; Vineyard Focus: Bien Nacido; Winery Focus: Tale Of Three Verticals
- **Pinot Discovery Tasting:** 40 top Pinot wineries pour their 2006s.
- **Grand Vintner Dinner**

#### SUNDAY, October 28

- **Morning Seminar Program** (optional)
- **Grand Artisanal Pinot Tasting:** 80 top wineries

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**\*\*Subscriber Price: \$675.00\*\***

### SUNDAY GRAND TASTING - \$75.00

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**Buy 4 Sunday tickets at \$65 and get a fifth ticket FREE!**

**All tickets must be purchased in advance.**

*Pinot On The River is a production of Pinot Festival Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization*

## **PINOTREPORT**

For People Passionate About Western Pinot Noir

**Gregory S. Walter**

Editor and Publisher

**Michael Dotson**

Contributing Editor

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### **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 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**

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

## “An Amazing Tale of Perseverance 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.”

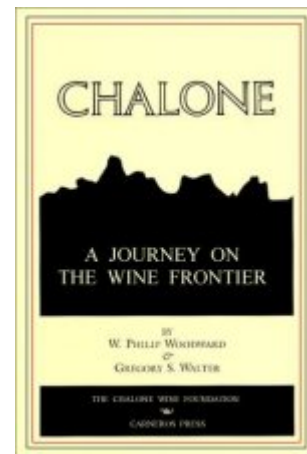
-- Steven Charnick, *wine lover, Wilmington, Del.*

“**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.*



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**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.

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#### 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**

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