

PINOTREPORT

PASSIONATE ABOUT WESTERN PINOT NOIR

ISSUE NO. 100

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INSIDE

IN THE MARKET

Great Pinots to buy, drink now or add to your cellar.

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WINNER

James Beard Award For
Newsletter Writing

Headed Into The New Year ...

THE YEAR 2014 IS ENDING ON A GOOD NOTE IN AT LEAST TWO SENSES OF THE WORD: California wine country is getting record rainfall this month. That's great news and while it's definitely made holiday shopping a little more of a challenge than past years, we're all hoping the trend continues into the new year.

The other good news I've seen this month is the quality of the Pinot Noir I have tasted. The results of some of those tastings are in this issue. The 2013 wines I am seeing (as demonstrated this issue by the Sojourn Pinots) have terrific structure and focus. Pinots from the large 2012 vintage that continue to come in are showing nice development with the additional bottle age that they have seen. Even the sprinklings of 2011s that have come in are drinking really well now.

I'm thinking 2015 is going to be a good year for drinking Pinot!

Last Chance To Join Me On The Danube in 2015!

Time is getting short to book your place on my upcoming Danube River wine experience in 2015. As I have said a few times now, I will be leading a wine journey to legendary destinations along a truly historic river. Our Danube River Wine Cruise is November 16-23, 2015 aboard AMA Waterways new 164-passenger ship, the AMAPrima. The time to book is now! Please see pages 2 and 3 of this issue for more information on this great vacation opportunity. I hope that you will join me for this memorable experience!

In This Issue

This issue features new releases from producers including Calera Wine Company, Chaname Wines, Donelan Wines, Gehricke, Gloria Ferrer, La Crema, Mansfield-Dunne, Manzoni Vineyards, Nuggucciet Cellars, Roadhouse Winery, Russian Hill Estate, Sojourn Cellars, Talley Vineyards, WillaKenzie Estate and Wonderment Wines.

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

-- Greg Walter, editor and publisher

AMAWATERWAYS THE ROMANTIC DANUBE WITH GREG WALTER

EDITOR & PUBLISHER OF THE PINOTREPORT

Nov 16 - 23, 2015 aboard the AMAPRIMA!



AN EXCLUSIVE RIVER CRUISE ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER



PinotReport Editor and Publisher Greg Walter has been creating compelling content in wine, food and beyond for more than 30 years as a wine expert, writer, editor, publisher, wine judge and content consultant. Following 15 years with Wine Spectator as senior editor and later president of the magazine, he formed his own consulting group in 1994 as an umbrella for his various activities including PinotReport. PinotReport is an independent newsletter written exclusively about Western Pinot Noir, and is the winner of the prestigious James Beard Foundation Award for Best Newsletter. Walter has tasted tens of thousands of Pinots from all over the world over the past 25 years and thousands of Western Pinot Noirs since he launched PinotReport 13 years ago. He has written and/or created more than a dozen books, mostly on wine-related subjects, and lives and works in the town of Sonoma, California. Don't miss out on this chance to sail with them him along the Danube River with AMAWATERWAYS!

PINOTREPORT
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1		Overnight flight to Czech Republic
2	Prague	Hotel check-in
3	Prague	City Tour
4	Prague	Free time Optional Terezin excursion
5	Prague Regensburg Vilshofen	Transfer to Regensburg Walking tour EMBARKATION "Oktoberfest"; Welcome Aboard Wine Toast
6	Vilshofen Passau	Free Time Walking tour; onboard wine tasting
7	Linz	Walking tour OR Cesky Krumlov excursion OR Salzburg excursion Chafne Des Rôtisseurs Dinner with wine pairing
8	Melk Dürnstein	Benedictine Abbey tour Vineyard visit with wine tasting Captain's Dinners with wine pairing
9	Dürnstein Krems	Walking tour Wachau Valley winery visit with hors d'oeuvres
10	Vienna	City tour; Optional Schönbrunn Palace tour Viennese Wine and Music evening OR optional Mozart & Strauss concert
11	Budapest	Onboard wine lecture & tasting; city tour Farewell Dinner with Hungarian folk music Illuminations Cruise
12	Barcelona	DISEMBARKATION

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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.

Calera Wine Company

Calera Wine Company is one of California's most enduring outposts for Pinot Noir. Calera's founder Josh Jensen was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and after living in France for several years following his education in history and anthropology at Yale and later Oxford universities, he developed a love and fascination for Burgundy and its wines. He decided to turn that fascination into a career and worked harvests in 1970 and 1971 at Domaine de la Romaneé-Conti and Domaine Dujac. He returned to California in 1971 to search for a site to create his own wine estate and Burgundian-styled wines. He believed that limestone was the key to the right vineyard site and finally in 1974 settled on a high-elevation (around 2,200 feet) property south of the town of Hollister in San Benito County near Mt. Harlan. The soil there was loaded with limestone. In 1975, Josh planted his first Pinot Noir vineyard—24 acres in three parcels on the estate: Selleck, Reed and Jensen. He purchased a neighboring property in 1982 and over the next two years planted Viognier, Chardonnay and his fourth Pinot planting, the Mills Vineyard. More Chardonnay and Pinot Noir were planted on the property in 1997 and 1998. In 1990, Mt. Harlan was established as an American Viticultural Area. Josh produces several bottlings of Pinot including des Villiers, Jensen, Reed, Ryan, Mills, Selleck as well as a Central Coast blend.

Calera Wine Company

Pinot Noir Mt. Harlan Mills Vineyard 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; deep stewed cherry aromas with earthy, pepper notes; complex, deep, focused stewed dark cherry flavors with earthy notes, some oak and tannin; good

structure and balance; long finish. Deep, earthy Pinot with terrific focused flavors.

896 cases made \$54 Score: 94

Calera Wine Company

Pinot Noir Mt. Harlan Selleck Vineyard 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; complex berry/cherry aromas with earthy, herbal notes; deep, dense cherry flavors with herbal notes; moderate oak and tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Dense, layered Pinot with a lot of time ahead of it.

214 cases made \$84 Score: 94

Chaname Wines

Chaname Wines is the wine venture of James Hahn and his wife Mila Chaname, based in the town of Sonoma. This is not James Hahn's first brush with winemaking. His father, Don Hahn, planted vineyards in the Anderson Valley in 1972. Wines produced include Pinot Noir from the Anderson Valley, a Pinot Noir Rose from Sonoma coast and Sauvignon Blanc from Sonoma Valley.

Chaname Wines

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Angel Camp & Charles Vineyards 2012

Medium ruby color; complex, herbal, dusty cherry aromas; rich, ripe cherry flavors with earthy and herbal notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Bright, herbal Pinot that is drinking well now.

49 cases made \$45 Score: 91

Donelan Wines

Joe Donelan has a motto printed on every one of his Donelan Family wine labels: "Wine is a journey not a destination." He loves the journey of making wine, of working the vineyards, of making friends and appreciating his customers. He works with Tyler Thomas, his winemaker since the 2008 vintage, to value quality in the bottle—and family—above all else. Donelan

MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

"Deep and very complex..."

Sojourn Cellars

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2013

Medium-deep ruby color; a bit tight on the nose initially, then complex cherry, earth and tea aromas; complex, full, earthy cherry flavors with some tea and oak notes; lush texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Deep, very complex Pinot with amazing layers that need time to open up.

1,250 cases made \$54 Score: 96

SMART BUY!

"Ripe and bright..."

Talley Vineyards

Pinot Noir Edna Valley 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; rich, bright berry aromas; ripe, full berry flavors with some oak and spice notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Ripe and bright Pinot that's great for a wide range of foods.

201 cases made \$34 Score: 90

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Roussanne, Grenache and Syrah with many of the bottlings named after family members. Keep your eyes open for these wines!

Donelan Wines

Pinot Noir North Coast Two Brothers 2012

Medium ruby color; tight, herbal cherry aromas; earthy, herbal cherry flavors with some oak notes; lean but good structure and balance; long finish. Lean, well-structured Pinot with nice herbal notes.

1,900 cases made \$55 Score: 90

Gehricke

Gehricke is the Pinot venture of two brothers-in-law in the town of Sonoma, Calif., August Sebastiani and Kendrick Coakley. August heads up The Other Guys, a wine company owned by the Sebastiani family in Sonoma, and Kendrick is Gehricke's winemaker and an executive with Mia's Kitchen, a related company. The Gehricke brand was conceived by the two to focus on small-lot wines that showcase the vineyards in Sonoma County that are off the beaten path. The inaugural Pinot bottling is from the Carneros region.

Gehricke

Pinot Noir Carneros 2012

Medium-deep ruby color; complex, earthy, stewed cherry aromas with some clove notes; ripe, spicy, stewed cherry flavors with some oak and tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich, spicy Pinot that needs a little time to develop.

1,050 cases made \$40 Score: 91

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 U.S.A., 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 and Steven Urberg are the winemakers; Mike Crumley is the vice president of production and 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 2011

Medium ruby color; earthy, lean cherry aromas; complex; earthy, herbal cherry flavors; some oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy, herbal Pinot that's ready to drink.

7,900 cases made \$27 Score: 89

La Crema

Founded in 1979, La Crema is now part of Jackson Family Wines and focuses on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Russian River Valley, Carneros, Sonoma Coast, Anderson Valley and Willamette Valley. Three tiers of wines are produced by winemaker Elizabeth Grant-Douglas. The Appellation Series showcases the distinct character of one of the four appellations for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The Varietal Series is a set of limited bottlings that reflect the best of each variety and the Nine Barrel Series is the best barrel selection of the vintage. These wines are not only delicious, texture driven Pinots, they are also generally great values.

La Crema

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2012

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, spicy cherry aromas with earthy notes; rich, ripe cherry flavors with some oak and earth notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Ripe, spicy Pinot that needs a little air to open up.

n/a cases made \$25 Score: 89

Mansfield-Dunne Wines

John and Lynn Peterson had a two-part goal that was 10 years in the making: find a great site for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA, and then start making terrific wines from that site. In establishing their venture Mansfield-Dunne Wines, they have achieved those goals with some bonus points as well. They not only found an undeveloped property at a higher elevation on the Santa Lucia Highlands bench, but also found a developed Pinot Noir Vineyard along River Road that they named the Peterson Vineyard. The other bonus was building a relationship with Ed Kurtzman, one of the best Pinot winemakers in California, and enlisting his services as winemaker. I'm looking forward to their subsequent releases with great interest.

Mansfield-Dunne Wines

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands 2012

Medium ruby color; rich, earthy cherry aromas with some orange zest notes; rich, complex cherry flavors with oak and earthy notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and rich Pinot with nice texture.

285 cases made \$36 Score: 91

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Mansfield-Dunne Wines

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Peterson Vineyard 2012

Medium ruby color; deep aromas of cherry and spicy oak; rich, ripe dark cherry flavors with oak and spice notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and ripe Pinot with nice structure.

325 cases made \$48 Score: 93

Manzoni Vineyards

When Joseph Manzoni came to the United States in 1921 from Switzerland he eventually settled in the Salinas Valley working in the dairy business. He and his family moved to farming row crops, a business the Manzoni family continues today. He brought with him a tradition of making wine and grappa and shared that knowledge and tradition with his son Louie Manzoni and his grandsons Mark and Michael Manzoni. The family planted six acres of grapes in 1990 and then in 1999 started the Manzoni Wines label. Wines produced include Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah and port.

Manzoni Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Home Vineyard 2012

Medium-deep ruby color; earthy cherry aromas with herbal notes; deep stewed cherry flavors with herbal notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy and herbal, this Pinot needs a little air to open up.

797 cases made \$35 Score: 88

Nuggucciet Cellars

Nuggucciet Cellars (pronounced “New” Gaa” “Shay”) is the creation of Russ and Nancy Briley and is named for the couple’s two dogs Nugget and Gucci. Russ Briley writes a wine

column for the Ventura County Star newspaper. Both Russ and Nancy developed their passion for wine and Pinot Noir over the years after taking a wine and food pairing class at their local community college. The passion developed into a desire to make wine and then create a commercial label. They turned to Mike Brown of Cantara Cellars in Camarillo to help them produce their first vintage. The 2009 and 2010 vintages came from the Riverbench Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley, the 2011 vintage was from the Hyland Vineyard in the Willamette Valley in Oregon. For 2012, the grapes were sourced again from the Santa Maria Valley.

Nuggucciet Cellars

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2012

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, herbal cherry aromas with some oak notes; deep, herbal cherry flavors with toasty oak and some tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep, full Pinot with good structure for age.

60 cases made \$36 Score: 90

Roadhouse Winery

Roadhouse Winery is definitely the venture of someone with a passion for Pinot Noir. The seeds for Roadhouse go back several years. After two decades of high tech success in San Francisco, serial entrepreneur Eric Hall fled the city and purchased property in Cazadero in semi-remote Western Sonoma County (the true Sonoma Coast). Eric very quickly became immersed in wines of the region. He later moved from Cazadero and purchased a small resort property in Guerneville where he quickly developed a love and a passion for Russian River Pinot Noir. As he made friends in the business, he learned more and more about the wines and business he loved. About the same time, Eric approached me with an idea to create a Pinot Noir event in the Russian River Valley—we launched the Pinot On The River Festival in 2004. The New Years’ Eve flash floods of 2005 on and around the Russian River overran his resort and he had no choice but to move on.

MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

“Deep, complex, layered...”

Roadhouse Winery

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Green Label 2012

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, tight dark cherry aromas with some clove notes; complex, deep cherry flavors with layered clove, cinnamon and oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep, complex and layered Pinot with a nice life ahead of it.

300 cases made \$59 Score: 95

SMART BUY!

“Rich and spicy...”

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Gisele 2012

Medium ruby color; bright, rich berry aromas with spicy notes; rich, bright berry flavors with spice and oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and spicy Pinot that is great by itself.

7,000 cases made \$30 Score: 91

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Always on the lookout for opportunity, Eric found one in the old Topolos Vineyards and began a project to renovate and manage that property. All along Eric dreamed of the day when he could have his own little Pinot operation. He found that opportunity in 2008 and Roadhouse was launched. The tasting room is located in downtown Healdsburg on Center Street at the southeast corner of the plaza (next door to Oakville Grocery). Roadhouse is focused on Pinot Noir but is also offering other wines including Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel. Pinot bottlings are focused on barrel selections of Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast fruit as well as a vineyard designate from the Weir Vineyard in Yorkville Highlands, all of which bear distinctive, colorful labels. These are terrific wines and the tasting room is really worth a trip to Healdsburg.

Roadhouse Winery

Pinot Noir Green Valley White Label 2012

Medium ruby color; earthy, forest floor aromas with some cherry notes; ripe, earthy cherry flavors with toasty oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy, ripe Pinot that would be great with a mushroom pasta.

175 cases made \$49 Score: 93

Roadhouse Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Black Label 2012

Medium-deep ruby color; herbal, earthy cherry aromas with some oak notes; rich, ripe cherry flavors with oak and forest floor notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich, ripe Pinot with lots of earthy complexity.

150 cases made \$59 Score: 94

Roadhouse Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Pink Label 2012

Medium ruby color; deep, spicy cherry aromas with some oak notes; complex, earthy stewed cherry flavors with cola and oak notes; some tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Spicy, deep Pinot with structure for some additional age.

250 cases made \$49 Score: 92

Roadhouse Winery

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Green Label 2012

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

Roadhouse Winery

Pinot Noir Yorkville Highlands Platinum Label 2012

Medium ruby color; subtle, dusty cherry aromas with some forest floor notes; complex, elegant cherry flavors with earthy, feral notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Subtle, earthy Pinot with very complex flavors.

150 cases made \$75 Score: 94

Russian Hill Estate

Ed Gomez and Ellen Mack began their journey in wine making Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay under their Benicia Cellars label in the Solano County city of Benicia. Both severely bitten by the wine bug, they wanted to continue making wine, but also wanted to have a property that would be a suitable place to plant an estate vineyard. They established the Russian Hill Estate in 1997 on 21 acres of low hills in the middle of the Russian River Valley on Slusser Road next door to Sonoma-Cutrer. The property came with an estate house known to locals by the nickname "Tara" because of its architecture and from there came the name of their 20-acre estate vineyard, Tara Vineyard. Planted in 1998 to Pinot Noir, the Tara Vineyard is mostly east facing. Russian Hill has a second vineyard, Sunnyview Vineyard, located approximately six miles southeast of the winery, with 15 acres planted to Pinot and five to Viognier. Ed's nephew, Patrick Melley, is Russian Hill's winemaker. Mostly self-taught, Patrick has really dialed in a Russian Hill style that's really all about a great core of fruit, balance and terrific texture and mouthfeel. Currently Russian Hill produces Chardonnay and five bottlings of Pinot Noir: an Russian River estate bottling, a block selection called Ellen's Block and estate vineyard designates from their own Tara Vineyard and Sunnyview Vineyard. Underpriced and truly under-recognized, Russian Hill should be part of your Pinot cellar.

Russian Hill Estate

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Estate Vineyard 2011

Medium ruby color; subtle spicy cherry aromas; deep, herbal cherry flavors with some cola and oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Spicy, silky Pinot that's drinking well now.

985 cases made \$40 Score: 91

Russian Hill Estate

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Estate Vineyard Ellen's Block 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; complex, dark cherry and cola aromas; rich, ripe dark cherry flavors with nicely layered spice, cola and oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and elegant Pinot with really nice texture and layered flavors.

74 cases made \$56 Score: 93

Russian Hill Estate

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Sunnyview Vineyard 2011

Medium ruby color; deep earthy cherry aromas with some oak notes; rich, layered cherry flavors with oak and earthy notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and layered Pinot with nice toasty notes.

99 cases made \$60 Score: 92

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Russian Hill Estate

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Tara Vineyard 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; complex, cherry and cola aromas with some herbal and anise notes; deep, elegant cherry flavors with herbal and oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Elegant, complex Pinot that tastes great now and will age well.

276 cases made \$54 Score: 93

Sojourn Cellars

When Craig Haserot and Erich Bradley met on the tennis courts of the town of Sonoma, both were really from different worlds. Craig was a dot-com boomer and Erich was the winemaker at Audelssa Winery high in the mountains above Sonoma. Both had a passion for tennis and, they soon discovered, for great wines as well. The duo launched Sojourn Cellars to create, at first, handcrafted Cabernet Sauvignon from the mountains high above Sonoma. And while their Cabernets are terrific, their lush, deep, texture-driven Pinot Noirs are truly the big attraction for this venture and really Erich's sweet spot as a winemaker. The trio of Craig, Erich and assistant winemaker Randy Bennett really have these wines dialed in. It seems that each year I like these Pinots a little more. Sojourn Pinot bottlings include blends from Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley, as well as vineyard designates from terrific vineyards such as Rodgers Creek Vineyard, Gap's Crown Vineyard and the Sangiacomo Vineyard. The Sojourn Cabernet Sauvignon is also a winner as is the winery's killer Chardonnay. These are amazing wines, year in and year out.

Sojourn Cellars

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2013

Medium-deep ruby color; bright, complex spicy, clove aromas; deep, complex cherry and clove flavors with earthy notes; silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Bright, spicy Pinot that has great texture as well as structure for age.

1,750 cases made \$39 Score: 95

Sojourn Cellars

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Vineyard 2013

Deep ruby color; complex, lush dark cherry aromas with some spice aromas; deep, earthy cherry flavors with bright fruit and oak notes; moderate tannin; silky texture; great structure and balance; long finish. Dense and deep Pinot that needs patience in your cellar and time in the glass to open. Worth your patience.

1,025 cases made \$59 Score: 96

Sojourn Cellars

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Rodgers Creek Vineyard 2013

Medium-deep ruby color; ripe cherry aromas with complex, earthy notes; deep, ripe red cherry flavors with earth and clove

notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy, complex Pinot with good structure for age.

700 cases made \$48 Score: 95

Sojourn Cellars

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2013

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

Talley Vineyards

The Talley family has a long history of agriculture, beginning in 1948, in Arroyo Grande, just south of the Edna Valley. In the 1980s, the family became convinced that their valley was ideal for wine grapes. They planted some test plots and by 1986 were producing their first wines. Today, Talley Vineyards is well known for its outstanding Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Brian Talley oversees winery and vineyard operations. The Talley family owns four vineyards—the Rincon Vineyard (where the winery is located) and Rosemary's Vineyard are in the Arroyo Grande Valley. The Stone Corral Vineyard in Edna Valley is a collaboration with Stephen Ross Wines and Kynsi Winery with each controlling one-third of the vineyard. Brian's Pinot bottlings include a regional bottling from Edna Valley, an Arroyo Grande Valley estate bottling and vineyard designates from Stone Corral Vineyard, Rincon Vineyard and Rosemary's Vineyard. The Talleys also produce a regional San Luis Obispo County Pinot blend from purchased grapes under the Bishop's Peak label.

Talley Vineyards

Pinot Noir Arroyo Grande Valley 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; rich, ripe cherry and plum aromas; complex plum and cherry flavors with earthy and oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Silky, rich Pinot that would be great with roasted chicken or pork.

2,825 cases made \$36 Score: 90

Talley Vineyards

Pinot Noir Arroyo Grande Valley Rincon Vineyard 2011

Deep ruby color; dense, earthy cherry aromas; complex, deep plum and cherry flavors with earthy, herbal notes; elegant; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex and elegant Pinot that has a long life ahead.

450 cases made \$60 Score: 94

Talley Vineyards

Pinot Noir Arroyo Grande Valley Rosemary's Vineyard 2011

Deep ruby color; deep, complex dark cherry aromas with herbal notes; deep, rich, dark cherry flavors with layers of earth and herbal notes; some oak and tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and dense Pinot that is just beginning to show what it's got.

444 cases made \$70 Score: 93

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Talley Vineyards

Pinot Noir Edna Valley 2011

Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 4.

Talley Vineyards

Pinot Noir Edna Valley Stone Corral Vineyard 2011

Deep ruby color; deep aromas of berry and anise; complex berry flavors with earthy and herbal notes; moderate oak and tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Full, rich Pinot that will reward some cellar patience.

166 cases made \$54 Score: 92

WillaKenzie Estate

Burgundian native Bernard Lacroute decided, after a successful career in the high-tech industry, that he wanted to grow Pinot Noir in Oregon. He and his wife Ronni set out to find the right site and in 1991 after seeing an ad for a 420-acre cattle ranch in Yamhill, Oregon, they visited the site, purchased it and WillaKenzie was born. The winery name is derived from the predominant soil type—Willakenzie—of the site and the area. They began planting vineyards in 1992 and built a gravity fed winery in 1995. Wines produced include Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir. Pinot bottlings include regional and estate bottlings named Kiana, Aliette, Emery, Pierre Leon, Terres Basses and Triple Black Slopes.

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Jory Hills 2011

Medium ruby color; spicy cherry aromas with some earthy notes; deep, red cherry flavors with some spice and oak notes; moderate tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Full, spicy Pinot with nice structure for age.

400 cases made \$48 Score: 90

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Aliette 2011

Medium ruby color; subtle, red cherry aromas with some herbal notes; complex, earthy cherry flavors with herbal notes and some tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Subtle, herbal Pinot with good length.

800 cases made \$48 Score: 91

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Emery 2011

Medium ruby color; bright, tart cherry flavors with some earth and floral notes; firm, rich cherry and berry flavors with some herbal notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Bright, rich Pinot with nice layers of flavor.

800 cases made \$48 Score: 93

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Gisele 2012

Please see "Smart Buy!" on page 6.

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Kiana 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dark berry aromas with some clove notes; bright, tart dark berry flavors with spice notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep, rich Pinot with terrific spice notes.

600 cases made \$48 Score: 89

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Pierre Leon 2011

Medium ruby color; bright, spicy cherry aromas with some citrusy notes; tart, bright cherry flavors with some oak and spice notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Spicy and bright Pinot that's drinking well now.

2,000 cases made \$48 Score: 90

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Terres Basses 2011

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, tight herbal earthy aromas with some cherry notes; deep, herbal cherry flavors with some oak notes; moderate tannins; good structure and balance; long finish. Herbal and earthy Pinot with nice depth and structure for aging.

500 cases made \$65 Score: 92

WillaKenzie Estate

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton Triple Black Slopes 2011

Medium ruby color; light berry and cherry aromas with some oak notes; rich, bright berry flavors with some cinnamon notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Light, spicy Pinot that will work with many lighter dishes.

500 cases made \$65 Score: 92

Wonderment Wines

Wonderment is the wine venture of South Carolina native Stephanie Cook. After her first career as an international fashion model, Stephanie returned to South Carolina and earned a culinary degree from Johnson & Wales University. She took that degree to stints in restaurant and catering and then eventually to her growing desire to become a winemaker. After her first working harvest in Napa Valley, she took the plunge and made her first Pinot Noir and Zinfandels in 2011. Stephanie continues to expand her knowledge, working harvest in New Zealand for the 2014 vintage while also building her Wonderment Wines brand. Today, Wonderment produces vineyard-designate Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Semillon.

Wonderment Wines

Pinot Noir Carneros Dr. Stan's Vineyard 2012

Medium ruby color; ripe cherry and strawberry aromas with some earthy notes; ripe earthy cherry flavors with some herbal

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy, ripe Pinot with nice structure for some additional age.

79 cases made \$50 Score: 91

Wonderment Wines

Pinot Noir Green Valley Campbell's Vineyard 2012

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dense cherry aromas with some spice and cola notes; rich, ripe dark cherry flavors with spice and oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and deep Pinot with nice silky texture.

232 cases made \$40 Score: 92

Contacting The Winery

Below is contact information for wines discussed in this issue.

Calera Wine Company

831.637.9170, www.calerawine.com

Chaname Wines

707.996.2900, www.chanamewines.com

Donelan Wines

707.591.0782, www.donelanwines.com

Gehricke

www.togwines.com

Gloria Ferrer

707.996.7256, www.gloriaferrer.com

La Crema

800.314.1762, www.lacrema.com

Mansfield-Dunne Wines

650.856.5538, www.mansfield-dunne.com

Manzoni Vineyards

831.675.3398, www.manzoniwines.com

Nuggucciet Cellars

661.993.0462, www.nugguccietcellars.com

Roadhouse Winery

707.922.6362, www.roadhousewinery.com

Russian Hill Estate

707.575.9428, www.russianhillwinery.com

Sojourn Cellars

707.933.9753, www.sojourncellars.com

Talley Vineyards

805.489.0446, www.talleyvineyards.com

Willakenzie Estate

503.662.4727, www.willakenzie.com

Wonderment Wines

843.822.8466, www.wondermentwines.com

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PINOTREPORT

PASSIONATE ABOUT WESTERN PINOT NOIR

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Editorial Philosophy

PinotReport is an independent newsletter owned, written and published by Greg 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 Greg 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 one bottle of each wine.
3. Each wine submitted should include a data sheet with at minimum the suggested retail price, case production and distribution data.

To submit samples, please visit the PinotReport website for details.

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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