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New Pinot Noir and Cabernet Releases from Sojourn Cellars

Wine Reviews

WRITTEN BY FRED SWAN

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Sojourn Cellars consistently produces top-quality **Pinot Noir** and **Cabernet Sauvignon** wines from North Coast sites. Most of the releases are vineyard-designates, but there are some fine appellation blends as well. Winemaker **Erich Bradley** delivers a style that's rich and deeply flavorful, yet well-balanced and pretty rather than bruising. The grapes for the wines below were 100% de-stemmed, then fermented with native yeast in open-top tanks. I tasted the unfined, unfiltered wines blind in flights including other producers.

2011 Sojourn Cellars Pinot Noir Campbell Ranch Vineyard Sonoma Coast, 175 cases - \$59. This is the first release from Campbell Ranch for Sojourn. The vineyard is located in the near Annapolis (in the coastal mountains northeast of Sea Ranch) on the northern Sonoma coast. The clone 115 and 777 grapes came from blocks worked by star vineyard-manager **Ulises Valdez**.

Uniquely attractive aromas and flavors of wild raspberry and blueberry are dusted with forest spice which reflects both the "true Sonoma Coast" site, nestled amongst redwoods, and the cool 2011 vintage. The medium+ body and moderate tannins of fine grain and chalk are just right and the wine is ready-to-drink now but will easily age for seven years or so. 13.8% alcohol. **Highly Recommended**

2011 Sojourn Cellars Pinot Noir Wohler Vineyard Russian River Valley, 525 cases - \$48. Wohler's youthful vines—re-planted on Goldridge loam in Forestville less than 10 years ago—have delivered bold aromas and flavors of wild cherry, dark berries and spice which are consistent from first sniff all the way through the lengthy finish. Moderate tannins of talc frame this medium+ body wine. Delicious

now but best 2015 - 2020. 14.2% alcohol. **Highly Recommended**

2011 Sojourn Cellars Pinot Noir Ridgetop Vineyard Sonoma Coast, 275 cases - \$59. The Ridgetop Vineyard is sited similarly to Campbell Ranch—in the mountains near Annapolis, surrounded by redwoods—and is also managed by Ulises Valdez. Ridgetop is higher though, approximately 1,110 feet vs. 750, and features a jumble of soils.

Sojourn's Ridgetop Vineyard bottling of 115, 667, and 777 clone Pinot Noir is dark ruby in the glass with bold aromas of ripe red cherry, brown spice and supporting notes of flowers and forest spice. The full-bodied palate holds beautiful and intense tangy red fruit flavors framed by slightly drying, fine-grained and chalky tannins. Powerful, pretty, balanced and long. Drink now through 2023. **Very Highly Recommended**

2010 Sojourn Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Proprietary Cuvee Napa Valley, 150 cases - \$95. Sojourn's Proprietary Cuvee is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon but includes fruit from three different vineyards, including **Beckstoffer Vineyard George III in Rutherford**. The wine was aged in French oak, 75% new, for about 18 months.

The nose of this opaque, full-bodied wine bursts with black currant jam, currant leaf and licorice with side notes of pine. Loads of chalky tannins balance notable acidity and persistent, mouth-filling flavors of mocha, black cherry and dark spice (especially clove and allspice). **Very Highly Recommended**

Sojourn Cellars is located in a small, re-purposed house just off the square in downtown Sonoma. They are on my short list of must-visit tasting rooms in the area. The **hourly tastings** are by appointment and limited to 10 people. Sojourn wines are sold primarily direct to consumer via a mailing list.

[View the review online.](#)

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