

# PINOTREPORT

for people passionate about western pinot noir

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## The Pinot Passion Awards

**THIS IS THE ANNUAL ISSUE I DEVOTE TO RECOGNIZING THOSE** who devote their lives and livelihoods to growing, making and enjoying great Pinot Noir. **This fifth annual “Pinot Passion” Awards** showcase the very special people and their very special wines that I believe give us so much to enjoy, and ultimately what makes Pinot Noir so different than other wines.

As in the past, I've tried to recognize that passion in several different ways. I offer my “**Top 12 Pinot Noirs**” and my “**Top 12 Pinot Values**” of 2006 to recognize the obvious passion of the winegrowers and winemakers that manifests itself in these incredible wines. Wines chosen come from the wines I have tasted in the year or so since the last awards issue. I've also included several “**Honorable Mention**” wines in each category. These wines are in many ways the numerical equals of the Top 12 lists, and should be given the same consideration. In “**Pinot's Master Vintners of 2006**” I recognize the driving force that pushes a select few to again and again achieve truly great things in Pinot. And my “**Pinot's Rising Stars of 2006**” recognizes four vintners who are moving up very quickly and are definitely ones to watch.

Also in this issue, look for the **2006 Index of All Wines Published**. This alphabetical listing gives you quick access to all of the Pinots I've reviewed over the past year and should be a helpful quick reference.

**If you have any suggestions** for new award categories, vintners or wines that you think should be recognized in these awards, please feel free to email me at [gswalter@pinotreport.com](mailto:gswalter@pinotreport.com).

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

-- Gregory S. Walter, editor and publisher



### WINNER

**James Beard Award**  
For Newsletter Writing  
On Food, Beverage, Restaurants  
and Nutrition, 2005

# TOP

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# 12

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# PINOT

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# NOIRS

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# OF 2006

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These wines represent the best current-release Pinot Noirs I've tasted over the course of the last year. It's really not a strict ranking—rather it's a collection of truly incredible wines I'm telling you **to go out of your way** to find, buy and enjoy.

## WINE OF THE YEAR

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*"The best Pinot I've tasted all year..."*

# 1.

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### **Kosta Browne**

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2004***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep black cherry, spice and cinnamon notes; rich and deep, beautiful black cherry flavors, spice and cinnamon notes, silky texture, sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish.

Terrific juicy fruit and complex spicy notes really make this a joy to drink. The 2003 Sonoma Coast blend was my choice for the #2 wine in last year's Pinot Passion Awards. Michael Browne and Dan Kosta have consistently created an amazing blended Pinot at a bargain price. *Originally published in issue #40.*

**1,010 cases made     \$32     Score: 97**

# 2.

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### **Radio-Coteau**

***Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy 2004***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, cherry, plum aromas with dusty, spicy notes; deep, complex and rich; stewed red cherry with earthy, dusty notes; sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish.

Complex and deep, this is a very focused Pinot with the structure to age a bit. Please let this Pinot open up for an hour or so. From the always excellent Savoy Vineyard in Anderson Valley, Winemaker Eric Sussman adds his own signature that makes this a terrific Pinot. *Originally published in issue #40.*

**480 cases made     \$48     Score: 97**

# 3.

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### **Loring Wine Company**

***Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2005***

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Medium ruby purple color; sweet plum and black cherry aromas with some spice notes; rich, deep, ripe black cherry and plum fruit, with savory spice and smoky, sweet oak; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish.

Amazing richness and silkiness on the mouth, this Pinot just plain tastes great and gets better in the glass. From the always terrific Rosella's Vineyard, Brian Loring hits another one outta the park! *Originally published in issue #42.*

**825 cases made     \$48     Score: 97**

# 4.

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### **Sojourn Cellars**

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2005***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, intense, spice and dusty cherry aromas; rich, ripe, lush cherry fruit with amazing depth and complexity; dusty, earthy, forest floor notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish.

WOW! This Pinot has great structure and yet some of the most lush, juicy cherry fruit I've had in a while. Sojourn partners Craig Haserot and Erich Bradley have truly found a sweet spot for Pinot and I don't see anything changing in future vintages. Amazing Pinot! *Originally published in issue #43.*

**230 cases made     \$48     Score: 97**

# THE 2007 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

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## 5.

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### **Kosta Browne**

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Kanzler Vineyard 2004***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, complex black cherry and forest floor aromas; deep, intense black cherry fruit, complex forest floor notes, slight tannin and sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. Amazingly deep and complex, this Pinot has so much flavor and depth on great structure. The 20-acre Kanzler Vineyard is located in western Sonoma County cooled by the Petaluma Gap. *Originally published in issue #40.*

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**430 cases made      \$52      Score: 97**

## 6.

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### **Kosta Browne**

***Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Cohn Vineyard 2004***

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Medium-deep ruby color; deep, spicy, earthy, forest floor aromas; big, rich, deep red cherry and forest floor flavors; some tannin and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. A big and rich style with lots of deep cherry flavors—would go great with a good beef or lamb dish. The Cohn Vineyard, now called Benovia Ranch, is located at the northern end of the Russian River Valley. *Originally published in issue #40.*

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**330 cases made      \$52      Score: 97**

## 7.

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### **August West**

***Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004***

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Medium ruby color; deep, stewed cherry, spice and smoky bacon aromas; ripe, deep and rich with stewed black cherry and smoky bacon flavors; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. WOW! This Pinot is delicate, yet has incredible flavor, texture and balance. Has just about everything you could want in a delicate, balanced Pinot. *Originally published in issue #40.*

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

## 8.

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### **Shea Wine Cellars**

***Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Block 23 2004***

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; rich, ripe black cherry and

spice aromas; full and rich with intense, deep black cherry, lavender and complex spice notes with sweet oak; great structure and balance; long finish. This is another home run Pinot from Dick Shea—the amazing depth and lush richness just gets better and better in the glass the longer it's open. Pick a special meal to serve this with. *Originally published in issue #39.*

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

## 9.

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### **A. P. Vin**

***Pinot Noir Green Valley Keefer Ranch Vineyard 2005***

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Medium ruby purple color; subtle cherry aromas with some earthy and spice notes; rich, ripe, deep black cherry flavors, spice and sweet oak notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Lush and rich, this is a truly delicious Pinot with amazing depth. I really just want to drink it all by itself. *Originally published in issue #42.*

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**200 cases made      \$46      Score: 96**

## 10.

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### **Landmark Vineyards**

***Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Kanzler Vineyard 2004***

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Medium ruby color; deep, spicy, complex black cherry aromas; deep and complex, rich and ripe flavors, black cherry, earthy, spicy notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and complex Pinot that really opens up with a bit of air. Delicious with a hearty roast. *Originally published in issue #41.*

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

## 11.

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### **Loring Wine Company**

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

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Medium ruby purple color; spicy, earthy, savory aromas with some black cherry notes; rich black cherry flavors on the palate with savory spice and sweet oak notes; silky and smooth; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex, ripe, spicy flavors pair with sweet oak to make a truly delicious Pinot. This is a great example of the Clos Pepe Vineyard—a Pinot that drinks well now with a good several years of aging potential ahead of it. *Originally published in issue #42.*

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

# THE 2007 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

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## 12.

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### Halleck Vineyard

*Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Estate 2004*

Deep ruby color; complex aromas of spice, cola, forest floor and black cherry; deep, rich and complex in the mouth with beautiful black cherry, cola and anise notes; just the right touch of sweet oak; great structure and balance, long finish. Ross and Jennifer Halleck's estate Pinot seems to get better and better with this laser focused 2004. *Originally published in issue #39.*

**40 cases made      \$75      Score: 96**

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

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### Clos Pepe Estate

*Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2004*

Deep ruby color; complex, spicy, peppery aromas with lots of black cherry and plum, deep and complex, with rich plum and black cherry flavors, spicy, peppery notes, sweet oak, great structure and balance; long finish. Incredibly deep and complex Pinot—it's amazing to me just how much nuance and depth are packed in to this wine. *Originally published in issue #43.*

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

### Flying Goat Cellars

*Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Rancho Santa Rosa 2004*

Medium-deep ruby color; deep black cherry and plum aromas; spicy, pepper notes; deep, rich, ripe black cherry and plum flavors, nice spicy notes; sweet oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and delicious, this Pinot really shows the balanced style of Pinot emerging from Santa Rita Hills—a really nice wine from owner and winemaker Norm Yost. *Originally published in issue #40.*

**229 cases made      \$40      Score: 95**

### Kanzler Vineyards

*Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2004*

Medium-deep ruby color; deep dusty, forest floor and black cherry aromas; ripe, silky, intense black cherry flavors with some forest floor complexity, lots of sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. This Pinot's intense fruit nearly explodes on the palate—deliciously silky and a great new Pinot from the owners of Kanzler Vineyard. *Originally published in issue #40.*

**258 cases made      \$38      Score: 95**

### MacPhail Family Wines

*Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Toulouse Vineyard 2004*

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, ripe cherry and plum aromas;

rich, lush, slightly stewed cherry fruit, spicy, sweet oak notes, silky texture, good structure and balance; long finish. Very silky and elegant, this wine just seems to get better and better in the glass. *Originally published in issue #39.*

**469 cases made      \$37      Score: 95**

### Papapietro Perry

*Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Pommard Clones 2004*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; rich, subtle cherry, spice and cinnamon aromas; deep, rich, ripe core of juicy cherry and plum fruit, spice, earthy, sweet oak, good structure and balance; long finish. This is the second vintage that winemaker Ben Papapietro has blended Pommard Clone lots from two of his primary vineyards—Leras Family and Peters vineyards. Truly amazing depth and lush, beautiful flavors. *Originally published in issue #38.*

**295 cases made      \$64      Score: 95**

### Roar Wines

*Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004*

Medium ruby color; deep, rich aromas of black cherry, bacon and sweet oak; ripe, rich, black cherry, spice, sweet oak, with a touch of smoky bacon, very silky and deep; good structure and balance; long finish. An amazingly deep and complex Pinot that cries out for a deep, earthy meat dish; it also has the silkiness and bright fruit to be a delight to drink all by itself. *Originally published in issue #40.*

**350 cases made      \$49      Score: 95**

### Roessler Cellars

*Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2004*

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, red cherry aromas with deep forest floor and cola notes; deep, lush and silky on the palate with intense red cherry, spice and forest floor notes, just the right amount of sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. This Pinot from Roger Roessler just seems to get better and better with each vintage. It's a blend of a few different Dutton family vineyards, but the backbone is from the Thomas Road Vineyard. *Originally published in issue #40.*

**200 cases made      \$38      Score: 95**

### Russian Hill

*Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Tara Vineyard 2004*

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dense, cherry and earth aromas; deep and complex with forest floor, dark cherry and lots of sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Great structure and depth with amazingly complex flavors. Needs lots of air to open up. *Originally published in issue #44.*

**395 cases made      \$42      Score: 95**

[PNR]

# TOP

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# 12

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# PINOT

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# VALUES

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# OF 2006

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The following is a list of wines you should keep in your wallet for a couple of reasons. First, these are great Pinots for everyday consumption—they taste great and come at a price point that even the most skeptical spouse can't argue with. Second, most of the wines listed are available just about everywhere.

## PINOT VALUE OF THE YEAR

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*"Rich, ripe, spicy Pinot..."*

# 1.

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### **Buena Vista Carneros** *Pinot Noir Carneros 2004*

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Medium ruby color; deep, earthy cherry and asian spice aromas; rich and ripe with complex dusty cherry flavors, earthy, silky texture, good structure and balance; long finish.

Rich, ripe and spicy Pinot with a beautiful core of cherry fruit. Winemaker Jeff Stewart and the team at Buena Vista (and Beam Wine Estates) have engineered an amazing turnaround at this venerable Carneros winery. Quality, beginning with the 2004 vintage has just jumped exponentially and these Pinots have never been better. *Originally published in issue #41.*

**14,000 cases made    \$23    Score: 92**

# 2.

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### **Forrest Estate** *Pinot Noir Marlborough 2004*

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Medium ruby color; spicy, red cherry aromas; deep, complex, interesting red cherry flavors, spicy, cinnamon notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish.

Silky and complex, this is a really interesting Pinot with lots of nuance; serve it with a subtle mushroom pasta or roasted meat dish. The Forrest Estate was established in 1990 by the Forrest family. They've grown their vineyard holdings with additional plantings in Marlborough and a new planting in Central Otago. *Originally published in issue #42.*

**7,000 cases made    \$19    Score: 93**

# 3.

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### **Brancott Vineyards** *Pinot Noir Marlborough 2004*

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Medium ruby color; deep red cherry, earthy and spice aromas; rich and ripe, lots of deep red cherry flavors; spicy, earthy notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish.

Beautiful and spicy, this rich Pinot has a delicious core of red cherry fruit—great to drink by itself or pair with a wide variety of cuisine. This is indeed a terrific value—look for the 2005 if this particular vintage has already left your market. *Originally published in issue #42.*

**15,000 cases made    \$11    Score: 92**

# 4.

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### **Siduri Wines** *Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2004*

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Medium-deep ruby purple color; bright spicy cherry and toasty aromas; ripe and lush with nice red cherry and cinnamon notes; silky texture, good structure and balance; long finish.

This Pinot shows just how nice a "lowly" Sonoma County blend can be in the hands of the right winemaker. Another very nice "Appellation Series" Pinot from Siduri. Look for two additional Siduri wines in this list. *Originally published in issue #37.*

**1,393 cases made    \$19    Score: 92**

# THE 2007 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

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5.

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**Laetitia Vineyard & Winery**  
*Pinot Noir Arroyo Grande Valley 2004*

Medium-deep ruby purple color; rich, deep black cherry and plum aromas with some spicy notes; rich and full cherry and plum fruit, silky texture, sweet oak, good structure and balance; long finish. This is a delicious Pinot—from the cherry and plum fruit to the silky texture. *Originally published in issue #35.*

**11,000 cases made \$25 Score: 93**

6.

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**Siduri Wines**  
*Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2004*

Medium ruby color; deep, earthy, forest floor, with berry notes; spicy, deep, earthy and forest floor notes, good structure and balance; long finish. Complex and earthy Pinot with lots of interesting flavors. Winemaker Adam Lee has really delivered delicious Oregon Pinot for a bargain price. *Originally published in issue #37.*

**1,391 cases made \$19 Score: 91**

7.

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**Hunterdon**  
*Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands 2004*

Medium ruby purple color; deep and rich with earthy and plum notes; deep with crisp plum and some sour cherry flavors, good structure and balance; lingering finish. Crisp and bright, this Pinot has a lot of juicy, pure cherry fruit. Hunterdon is the second label for Mayro-Murdick. *Originally published in issue #35.*

**1,650 cases made \$15 Score: 91**

8.

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**Harlow Ridge Winery**  
*Pinot Noir Lodi 2005*

Medium ruby color; rich, bright cherry aromas; rich and ripe cherry fruit, spice and earthy notes, good structure and balance; long finish. Good middle of the road Pinot; bright fruit, great for lighter dishes. *Originally published in issue #44.*

**n/a cases made \$10 Score: 91**

9.

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**A By Acacia**  
*Pinot Noir California 2005*

Medium ruby color; spicy, bright cherry flavors; lighter in body, bright berry/cherry flavors, a touch of oak, good structure and balance; lingering finish. Bright and spicy, this lighter-bodied Pinot is perfect for a wide variety of lighter foods. *Originally published in issue #41.*

**58,000 cases made \$17 Score: 90**

10.

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**Saint Clair**  
*Pinot Noir Marlborough Vicars Choice 2005*

Medium ruby color; spicy, dusty red cherry aromas, some earthy notes; rich, ripe dusty red cherry, nice silky texture, earthy notes, good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and ripe, delicious cherry core of fruit; this Pinot is delicious on its own or with a variety of dishes. *Originally published in issue #42.*

**3,000 cases made \$13 Score: 91**

11.

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**Napa Ridge**  
*Pinot Noir North Coast 2003*

Medium ruby red color; spicy, cinnamon, some red cherry aromas; slightly stewed cherry flavors with cinnamon and spice notes; good structure and balance; lingering finish. Nice, spicy style with a lot of interesting fruit in a medium-bodied package. Great for the table. *Originally published in issue #38.*

**n/a cases made \$10 Score: 90**

12.

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**Chalone Vineyard**  
*Pinot Noir Chalone 2003*

Deep ruby purple color; deep, spicy, cherry and earthy notes; deep, rich, complex cherry flavors with a lot of earthy and savory spice notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Powerful without being overbearing, this Pinot really has deep, complex flavors. *Originally published in issue #37.*

**6,971 cases made \$25 Score: 93**

# THE 2007 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

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## HONORABLE MENTIONS

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### Abundance Vineyard

**Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Brick Hill Block 2001**

Medium ruby red color; deep, earthy and spicy aromas; rich and deep with black cherry, earthy and forest floor flavors; toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy, subtle Pinot that has benefited from some additional bottle age. *Originally published in issue #35.*

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**994 cases made      \$18      Score: 90**

### Calera Wine Company

**Pinot Noir Central Coast 2002**

Medium ruby red color; deep, cherry cola and earthy aromas; rich, deep, great cherry fruit, intense and complex, earthy, dusty notes, good structure and balance; long finish. Deep, complex and earthy; this Pinot has great structure and some bottle age to really make it shine. *Originally published in issue #37.*

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**6,392 cases made      \$20      Score: 91**

### Coastal Ridge

**Pinot Noir California 2003**

Medium-deep ruby purple color; bright cherry and raspberry aromas; rich, ripe, raspberry, cherry flavors, crisp acidity, good structure; lingering finish. A bright and flavorful Pinot—simple and lighter bodied. It's a perfect choice for a picnic red wine. *Originally published in issue #38.*

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**n/a cases made      \$7      Score: 88**

### H Wines

**Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2004**

Medium-deep ruby color; earthy, stewed cherry aromas; rich, ripe, earthy flavors, stewed cherry, sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Big and rich with a lot of interesting flavors—great for the table and a wide variety of dishes. This label is part of Eric Hamacher's Hamacher Winery located in Carlton in the Willamette Valley. *Originally published in issue #44.*

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**352 cases made      \$20      Score: 92**

### Lincourt

**Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County 2004**

Medium-deep ruby color; earthy plum and cherry; ripe, earthy cherry flavors, spicy oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. An earthy style of Pinot with a nice core of fruit. This is a second label for Foley Estates, based in the Santa Rita Hills. *Originally published in issue #44.*

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**3,478 cases made      \$22      Score: 91**

### Roessler Cellars

**Pinot Noir Sonoma County Red Label 2004**

Medium-deep ruby color; rich and ripe with red cherry and pie spice aromas; deep, interesting red cherry flavors with spice and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. This is a spicy, delicious Pinot, with a wonderful core of cherry fruit. *Originally published in issue #40.*

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**1,091 cases made      \$26      Score: 93**

### Schug Carneros Estate

**Pinot Noir Carneros 2004**

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy and earthy aromas; rich cherry and strawberry flavors, some earthy, spice notes; good structure and balance; lingering finish. Rich, spicy style with a lot of interesting flavors—nice to sip all by itself but has the balance to go well with food. *Originally published in issue #39.*

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**7,090 cases made      \$22      Score: 92**

### Siduri Wines

**Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2004**

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, spicy, red cherry aromas; rich and ripe with bright red cherry flavors, and spicy notes, silky texture; great structure and balance; lingering finish. This is a delicious, rich and lush Russian River Pinot, and a bargain as well. Another in a growing list of Siduri's really nice Appellation Series wines. *Originally published in issue #37.*

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**1,020 cases made      \$26      Score: 93**

### Stoller Vineyards

**Pinot Noir Dundee Hills JV 2004**

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, rich, cherry aromas; ripe, rich strawberry and cherry flavors, light and bright; good structure and balance; lingering finish. A lighter bodied Pinot, this has such nice bright flavors, it's a great sipper by itself. *Originally published in issue #39.*

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**850 cases made      \$22      Score: 91**

### Willakenzie Estate

**Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2004**

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, herbal, dusty cherry aromas; herbal, earthy flavors with dusty cherry, sweet oak and some tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Ripe and interesting Pinot with a lot of complex herbal and earthy notes. *Originally published in issue #44.*

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**3,774 cases made      \$23      Score: 92**

[PNR]

# PINOT'S MASTER VINTNERS OF 2006

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## 1.

### Ben Papapietro

#### *Papapietro Perry Winery*

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For Ben Papapietro, wine was always there—on the dinner table, at all family gatherings and in his grandparents' cellar.

In 1980, Ben started his own garage winery at his San Francisco home. Later, he began helping in the fledgling winery of a fellow newspaper employee—Burt Williams, co-founder of Williams & Selyem. It wasn't long before Ben produced his first solo Pinot Noir, securing enough grapes to produce five gallons of wine. A few years later friend Bruce Perry joined Ben in his winemaking ventures. By 1990, Ben and Bruce found consistent vineyard sources for their homemade Pinot Noir and worked to perfect their craft. Ben and Bruce went commercial with their wine in 1998, producing 75 cases of Pinot Noir. Ben's Pinots are definitely vineyard-driven and thus the styles can vary with each vineyard and vintage, but there's always a core of deep fruit, silky texture, great structure and balance. Pinot bottlings include appellation blends for Russian River and Sonoma Coast, vineyard designates from Peters, Leras Family, Mukaida and Ellsbree vineyards, as well as a Pommard Clones bottling. But beyond the great wines, Ben is a genuinely nice guy; the kind of guy who really makes this business fun.

## 2.

### Harry Peterson-Nedry

#### *Chehalem Wines*

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Harry Peterson-Nedry, founder, winemaker and managing

partner of Chehalem, came to the wine business like many—a career change inspired by at first a casual love of wine.

His education in chemistry and english from the University of North Carolina led him first to high-tech manufacturing. Harry's passion for Pinot then led him to the Willamette Valley in 1980 where he planted the 37-acre Ridgecrest Vineyard in what would become the Ribbon Ridge AVA. In 1990, he founded Chehalem winery to take that passion to another level. Harry expanded the winery's estate vineyards through partnerships in Corral Creek Vineyard and Stoller Vineyard. He is involved in Oregon wine beyond the winery: he serves on the Oregon Wine Board, and has worked to establish Oregon Pinot Camp, ORCA (the Oregon Chardonnay Alliance), and has worked on the authoring recent Willamette Valley sub-AVA proposals.

Harry's Chehalem Pinots are deep and extracted with moderate amounts of new oak. Pinot bottlings include vineyard-designated bottlings from Stoller Vineyard, Ridgecrest Vineyard and Corral Creek as well as a 3 Vineyard blend and a Reserve bottling. These are delicious, stylish Pinots, worth a search of the market.

## 3.

### Kris Curran

#### *Sea Smoke Cellars*

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Kris Curran grew up in the Santa Ynez Valley with a love of animals. She took that love and went on to earn a degree in animal science at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

She became fascinated with the wine industry and after earning a degree in winemaking at Fresno State University Kris began the career path that would lead her to her current position as winemaker at Sea Smoke Cellars: first she was assistant winemaker at Cambria Winery in Santa Maria, then winemaker and general manager at Los Olivos startup Koehler Winery. Finally in 2000, Sea Smoke owner Bob Davids hired Kris to set up his new winery in the Santa Rita Hills and head up the winemaking team. Today, Kris employs 10 Pinot Noir clones in the south-facing vineyard blocks to produce each of the winery's three distinctive Pinot bottlings: "Botella," the "lightest" of the three, but still a full, balanced Pinot; "Southing," bigger with more new and toasty oak; and "Ten," featuring the best selections from each of the 10 clones planted in the vineyard.

Kris also makes wine under her own label—Curran—where she focuses on Syrah, Sangiovese and a delicious Grenache Blanc sourced from vineyard sites in the Santa Ynez Valley.

[PNR]



## PINOT'S RISING STARS OF 2006

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1.

### James MacPhail

#### *MacPhail Family Wines*

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James MacPhail founded MacPhail Family Wines in 2002 with a passion to make great Pinot Noir. His family had been active in Marin and Sonoma counties for generations in the appliance sales, building supply and natural gas businesses and James grew up working in the family business. He became an accomplished classical pianist and bagpiper, as well as a competitive swimmer; he was the youngest person to successfully swim the Golden Gate when he did so in 1983. He attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he earned dual bachelor's degrees in business and hotel administration. Instead of hotels, he began searching out vineyards and released his first Pinots from the 2002 vintage. He continues that search and today produces Pinot from a half a dozen vineyards. His are small production, high texture Pinots that are hard to find and very definitely worth the search.

2.

### Erich Bradley

#### *Sojourn Cellars*

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Erich Bradley met Craig Haserot, his partner in Sojourn Cellars, on the tennis courts of the town of Sonoma. Both had a passion for tennis and, they found, for great wines as well. Erich is the full-time winemaker at Audelssa Estate Winery high in the mountains to the east of Glen Ellen where he makes high-end Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Bordeaux-

styled blends. With Sojourn he makes Pinot Noir—and really good Pinot at that. The focus is fruit from the Petaluma Gap influenced part of the Sonoma Coast AVA, with an emphasis on the terrific Sangiacomo Vineyard. The 2004 and 2005 Pinots are tremendously deep and lush with miles and miles of complexity. The 2006 wines look easily as good. Erich is a sensitive winemaker with a great talent for expressing the character of the vineyard.

3.

### Kenneth Juhasz

#### *Auteur Wines, The Donum Estate*

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Kenneth Juhasz (pronounced "uhaas") talks a lot about dualism in his winemaking—maintaining the dualism between Pinot Noir's masculine and feminine character; the dualism of sourcing grapes from the Sonoma Coast AVA in California as well as the Willamette Valley in Oregon and his dual roles as winemaker for The Donum Estate in Carneros and his own label, Auteur. Kenneth made his way through school in North Carolina working in fine restaurants and a local wine shop. He headed west to the Willamette Valley to pursue his growing passion for Pinot Noir. Today, he's able to pursue that passion working with Donum Estate's terrific Carneros fruit, as well as his Auteur project that he works on with his wife and winery partner, Laura. His Pinots are deep, silky, full of complexity and yet also extremely elegant.

4.

### Adam Godlee Campbell

#### *Elk Cove Vineyards*

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Adam Godlee Campbell has been working and learning about the wine business at Elk Cove Vineyards literally since he was three years old. Founded by his parents Pat and Joe Campbell in 1974, Elk Cove proved to be the perfect "full immersion" training ground for Adam, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree at Lewis and Clark College. He became Elk Cove's winemaker in 1995. At Elk Cove, Adam sources Pinot Noir from 120 acres of estate vineyards on three sites in the Northern Willamette Valley: the Windhill Vineyard, La Boheme Vineyard and the Roosevelt Vineyard. The sites are for the most part steep, south-facing hillside vineyards. Adam's Pinots are deep and concentrated with layers and layers of flavor that really blossom with a little cellar time.

[PNR]

# THE 2007 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

## 2006 INDEX OF ALL WINES PUBLISHED

**\*\*ALL WINES ARE PINOT NOIR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED\*\***

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
<b>A. P. Vin</b>		
Green Valley Keefer Ranch Vineyard 2005, \$46	96	42
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2005, \$46	93	42
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2005, \$46	95	42
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard 2005, \$46	92	42
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2005, \$46	93	42
Santa Rita Hills Turner Vineyard 2005, \$46	94	42
Sonoma Coast Kanzler Vineyard 2005, \$46	92	42
<b>Abundance Vineyard</b>		
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2001, \$22	91	35
Sonoma Coast Brick Hill Block 2001, \$18	90	35
<b>Acacia Winery</b>		
Carneros Beckstoffer Las Amigas Vineyard 2004, \$60	92	41
Carneros Lone Tree Vineyard 2004, \$50	93	41
Carneros St. Clair Vineyard 2004, \$50	93	41
A by Acacia California 2005, \$17	90	41
<b>Alcina Cellars</b>		
Russian River Valley 2005, \$38	94	42
Sonoma Coast 2005, \$38	92	42
Sonoma Coast Ramondo Vineyard 2005, \$48	93	42
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2005, \$48	93	42
<b>Ambullneo</b>		
California Canis Major 2004, \$95	91	39
Carneros Mastiff Cuvee 2004, \$79	91	39
Santa Maria Valley Bulldog Reserve 2004, \$79	92	39
<b>Amici Cellars</b>		
Mendocino County 2003, \$42	87	37
<b>Anne Amie Vineyards</b>		
Willamette Valley 2002, \$25	89	37
Willamette Valley Hawk's View 2003, \$42	86	37
Willamette Valley La Colina Vineyard 2003, \$65	87	37
Willamette Valley Laurel Vineyard 2003, \$45	86	37
Willamette Valley Rainbow Ridge 2002, \$40	87	37
<b>Anthill Farms</b>		
Anderson Valley Demuth Vineyard 2004, \$35	93	41
Sonoma Coast Peters Vineyard 2004, \$35	94	41
<b>Arcadian</b>		
Central Coast Francesca 2001, \$75	89	43
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2001, \$50	90	43
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2002, \$80	91	43
Santa Lucia Highlands Sleepy Hollow Vineyard 2002, \$45	89	43
Santa Maria Valley Dierberg Vineyard 2002, \$50	90	43
Santa Rita Hills Fiddlestix Vineyard 2002, \$50	90	43
<b>Archery Summit</b>		
Willamette Valley Archery Summit Estate 2003, \$150	90	43
Willamette Valley Arcus Estate 2003, \$75	90	43
Willamette Valley Red Hills Estate 2003, \$75	89	43
Willamette Valley Renegade Ridge Estate 2003, \$60	89	43
Willamette Valley Premiere Cuvee 2003, \$37	89	43
<b>Arista Winery</b>		
Anderson Valley Ferrington Vineyard 2004, \$54	94	40
Russian River Valley 2004, \$28	92	40

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Russian River Valley Harper's Rest 2004, \$38	93	40
Russian River Valley Longbow 2004, \$38	93	40
Russian River Valley Mononi 2004, \$54	92	40
Russian River Valley Toboni 2004, \$54	94	40
<b>Armida Winery</b>		
Russian River Valley Bacigalupi Vineyard 2004, \$39	91	43
Russian River Valley Castelli-Knight 2004, \$36	90	43
<b>Atascadero Creek</b>		
Green Valley Railroad Vineyard 2004, \$28	91	40
<b>August West</b>		
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004, \$45	96	40
Sonoma Coast Graham Family Vineyard 2004, \$42	95	40
<b>Babcock Vineyard &amp; Winery</b>		
Monterey/Santa Barbara/Sonoma counties 2004, \$19	88	37
Santa Barbara County Grand Cuvee 2004, \$35	92	37
<b>Baileyana</b>		
Edna Valley Firepeak Vineyard 2004, \$38	92	43
<b>Bannock Brae</b>		
Central Otago 2003, \$35	90	42
<b>Beauregard</b>		
Santa Cruz Mountains Trout Gulch Vineyard 2003, \$35	87	37
<b>Beringer Vineyards</b>		
Napa Valley 2004, \$20	87	37
<b>Berridge Vineyards</b>		
Central Otago 2003, \$30	89	42
<b>Bianchi</b>		
Paso Robles Signature Selection 2004, \$25	85	43
<b>Borthwick Vineyard</b>		
Wairarapa 2003, \$25	89	42
<b>Brancott Vineyards</b>		
Marlborough 2004, \$11	92	42
<b>Broadley Vineyards</b>		
Willamette Valley Estate 2004, \$27	91	39
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard 2004, \$48	93	39
Willamette Valley Marcile Lorraine 2004, \$48	93	39
<b>Brogan Cellars</b>		
Anderson Valley 2004, \$40	91	37
Russian River Valley 2004, \$45	93	37
Russian River Valley Benovia Vineyard 2004, \$50	92	37
Russian River Valley Buena Tierra Helio Doro Block 2003, \$75	91	37
Russian River Valley Lingenfelder Vineyard 2004, \$48	93	37
Sonoma Coast Summa Young Vine 2004, \$60	93	37
<b>Buena Vista Carneros</b>		
Carneros 2004, \$23	92	41
Carneros Estate Vineyard Series 2004, \$34	94	41
Carneros Estate Vineyard Series Dijon 2004, \$38	92	41
Carneros Estate Vineyard Series Swan 2004, \$38	93	41
<b>Burrell School Vineyards</b>		
Santa Cruz Mountains Estate Reserve 2003, \$42	87	39
Santa Cruz Mountains Veranda Vineyard 2003, \$38	89	39
<b>Bush-Field Vineyard</b>		
Sonoma Valley Sonoma Mountain Top 2005, \$54	92	42
Sonoma Valley Sonoma Mountain Top 2004, \$54	91	41
<b>Byron Vineyards &amp; Winery</b>		
Santa Maria Valley 2004, \$25	92	43
Santa Maria Valley Nielson Vineyard 2003, \$35	93	43
<b>Calera Wine Company</b>		
Central Coast 2003, \$21	88	43

# THE 2007 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Central Coast 2002, \$20	91	37
Mt. Harlan Jensen 2002, \$53	91	43
Mt. Harlan Mills 2002, \$43	91	43
Mt. Harlan Mills 2001, \$40	87	37
Mt. Harlan Reed 2002, \$48	92	43
Mt. Harlan Ryan 2003, \$40	87	37
Mt. Harlan Ryan 2002, \$40	87	37
Mt. Harlan Ryan First Harvest 2002, \$40	90	43
Mt. Harlan Seleck 2002, \$58	92	43
Mt. Harlan Selleck 2001, \$55	90	37
<b>Carrefour Vineyards</b>		
Carneros 2003, \$28	93	37
<b>Chalone Vineyard</b>		
Chalone 2004, \$35	91	43
Chalone 2003, \$25	93	37
Monterey County 2004, \$15	87	37
<b>Chehalem</b>		
Dundee Hills Stoller Vineyard 2004, \$39	93	44
Ribbon Ridge Ridgecrest Vineyard 2004, \$39	92	44
Willamette Valley 3 Vineyard 2004, \$27	92	44
Willamette Valley Corral Creek 2004, \$39	91	44
Willamette Valley Reserve 2004, \$60	92	44
<b>Cima Collina</b>		
Monterey County 2004, \$26	91	43
<b>Clos Pepe Estate</b>		
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2004, \$45	95	43
<b>Coastal Ridge</b>		
California 2003, \$7	88	38
<b>Copeland Creek Vineyards</b>		
Sonoma Coast 2004, \$40	94	43
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$30	93	37
<b>Coyote Canyon Winery</b>		
Santa Cruz Mountains 2002, \$27	85	39
Santa Lucia Highlands 2003, \$41	87	39
Santa Lucia Highlands 2002, \$17	87	39
Santa Lucia Highlands 2001, \$41	85	39
<b>Crichton Hall</b>		
Carneros Truchard Vineyard 2002, \$32	87	39
<b>Davis Bynum Winery</b>		
Russian River Valley 2002, \$28	88	38
<b>De La Montanya</b>		
Russian River Valley Pinot2 2004, \$32	86	39
Russian River Valley Tina's Vineyard 2004, \$38	88	39
Sonoma Coast Christine's Vineyard 2004, \$38	87	39
Sonoma Coast Flying Rooster Pinup Series II 2004, \$28	87	39
<b>De Loach Vineyards</b>		
Russian River Valley 30th Anniversary Cuvee 2004, \$45	93	41
Russian River Valley Maboroshi Vineyard 2004, \$40	92	41
Russian River Valley OFS 2004, \$35	93	41
Russian River Valley OFS 2003, \$35	91	41
Sonoma Coast Durrell Vineyard 2004, \$40	93	41
<b>Domaine Alfred</b>		
Edna Valley 2004, \$28	92	38
Edna Valley 2003, \$28	90	38
Edna Valley Califa 2004, \$48	91	38
Edna Valley Califa 2003, \$48	90	38
<b>Domaine Carneros</b>		
Carneros 2003, \$28	91	38
<b>DuNah Vineyard &amp; Winery</b>		
Sonoma Coast DuNah Estate Vineyard 2004, \$45	93	41

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2004, \$45	94	41
<b>Dutton Estate Winery</b>		
Russian River Valley Jewell Block 2003, \$50	91	38
Russian River Valley Thomas Road Vineyard 2003, \$40	88	38
<b>El Molino Winery</b>		
Napa Valley 2003, \$55	91	43
Napa Valley 2002, \$52	92	38
<b>Elk Cove Vineyards</b>		
Willamette Valley 2004, \$26	90	39
Willamette Valley Mount Richmond 2004, \$38	94	39
Willamette Valley Windhill 2004, \$38	92	39
<b>Elk Prairie Vineyard</b>		
Humboldt County 2003, \$22	88	40
<b>Elke Vineyards</b>		
Anderson Valley Donnelly Creek 2003, \$26	88	40
Anderson Valley Donnelly Creek Gold Label 2003, \$28	90	40
<b>Etude</b>		
Carneros 2003, \$40	93	38
Carneros Heirloom 2003, \$80	93	44
<b>Fess Parker Winery</b>		
Santa Barbara County 2004, \$25	92	40
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2004, \$50	92	44
Santa Rita Hills Ashley's Vineyard 2004, \$50	91	44
<b>Five Rivers Winery</b>		
Santa Barbara County 2004, \$10	88	35
<b>Flying Goat Cellars</b>		
Santa Maria Valley Dierberg Vineyard 2004, \$38	94	40
Santa Rita Hills Rancho Santa Rosa 2004, \$40	95	40
<b>Foley Estates Vineyard &amp; Winery</b>		
Santa Rita Hills Rancho Santa Rosa 2004, \$38	92	44
Santa Rita Hills Rancho Santa Rosa 2003, \$38	90	38
Santa Rita Hills RSR Pommard Clone 2004, \$45	94	44
Santa Rita Hills RSR Pommard Clone 2003, \$45	91	38
Santa Rita Hills RSR Clone 2A 2004, \$45	91	44
Santa Rita Hills RSR Clone 2A 2003, \$45	92	38
Santa Rita Hills RSR Clone 667 2004, \$45	91	44
Santa Rita Hills RSR Dijon Clone 667 2003, \$45	90	38
Santa Rita Hills RSR Barrel Select 2004, \$50	92	44
Santa Rita Hills RSR Barrel Select 2003, \$50	92	38
Lincourt Santa Barbara County 2004, \$22	91	44
Lincourt Santa Rita Hills 2004, \$30	93	44
<b>Forrest Estate</b>		
Marlborough 2004, \$19	93	42
<b>Gallo Family Vineyards</b>		
Sonoma County Sonoma Reserve 2004, \$15	87	40
<b>Gary Farrell</b>		
Russian River Valley Allen Vyd Hillside Blocks 2003, \$60	92	38
Russian River Valley Russian River Selection 2003, \$34	86	38
Russian River Valley Rochioli-Allen 2003, \$65	92	38
Russian River Valley Starr Ridge Vineyard 2003, \$45	88	38
<b>Gloria Ferrer</b>		
Carneros 2003, \$26	92	38
Carneros 2002, \$26	85	38
Carneros Jose S. Ferrer Selection 2002, \$35	91	38
Carneros Rust Rock Terrace 2001, \$40	92	38
Carneros Gravel Knob 2001, \$40	92	38
<b>Golden's Wines</b>		
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2005, \$46	92	42
Santa Rita Hills Turner Vineyard 2005, \$46	91	42
<b>Great Blue Heron Vineyards</b>		
Santa Cruz Mountains 2005, \$28	86	43

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WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
<b>Greenhough</b>		
Nelson 2003, \$25	90	42
<b>Greenwood Ridge</b>		
Mendocino Ridge 2003, \$25	88	38
<b>Gundlach Bundschu</b>		
Sonoma Valley Rhinefarm Vineyard 2003, \$32	88	40
<b>Halleck Vineyard</b>		
Russian River Valley Hallberg Vineyard 2005, \$55	93	42
Russian River Valley The Farm Vineyard 2005, \$55	93	42
Russian River Valley Three Sons Cuvee 2005, \$38	94	42
Sonoma Coast Estate 2004, \$75	96	39
<b>Hamacher</b>		
Willamette Valley 2002, \$40	93	44
Willamette Valley Durant Vineyard 2002, \$60	94	44
H Wines Willamette Valley 2004, \$20	92	44
<b>Handley Cellars</b>		
Anderson Valley 2003, \$25	90	38
Mendocino County 2004, \$19	89	38
<b>Hanzell Vineyards</b>		
Sonoma Valley 2003, \$87	91	43
<b>Harlow Ridge Winery</b>		
Lodi 2005, \$10	91	44
<b>Hendry Winery</b>		
Napa Valley Blocks 4 & 5 2003, \$33	90	40
<b>Hook &amp; Ladder</b>		
Russian River Valley 2004, \$20	88	38
<b>Hug Cellars</b>		
Paso Robles Orchid Hill Vineyard 2004, \$27	88	40
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2004, \$43	91	40
<b>Inman Family Wines</b>		
Russian River Valley Olivet Grange Vineyard 2003, \$40	91	35
<b>J. Jacaman</b>		
Russian River Valley 2003, \$35	90	38
<b>J. Wilkes</b>		
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Hillside 2004, \$38	91	37
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Block Q 2003, \$48	92	37
Santa Maria Valley Solomon Hills 2004, \$38	92	37
<b>John Tyler</b>		
Russian River Valley Bacigalupi Vineyard 2002, \$42	91	35
<b>Kanzler Vineyards</b>		
Sonoma Coast 2004, \$38	95	40
Sonoma Coast Reserve 2004, \$49	94	40
<b>Kawarau Estates</b>		
Central Otago 2003, \$32	87	42
<b>Kendall-Jackson</b>		
California Vintners Reserve 2005, \$14	88	44
California Vintner's Reserve 2004, \$14	88	38
Monterey County Grand Reserve 2004, \$30	89	44
<b>Kim Crawford</b>		
Marlborough 2005, \$18	89	42
<b>King Estate</b>		
Oregon 2003, \$25	92	35
Oregon Domaine 2003, \$50	94	40
Oregon Domaine 2002, \$50	93	35
<b>Konrad &amp; Co.</b>		
Marlborough 2004, \$19	85	42
<b>Kosta Browne</b>		
Russian River Valley 2004, \$38	95	40

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Russian River Valley Amber Ridge Vineyard 2004, \$52	94	40
Russian River Valley Cohn Vineyard 2004, \$52	97	40
Russian River Valley Koplen Vineyard 2004, \$52	95	40
Sonoma Coast 2004, \$32	97	40
Sonoma Coast Kanzler Vineyard 2004, \$52	97	40
Sonoma County 4-Barrel 2004, \$52	95	40
<b>Laetitia Vineyard &amp; Winery</b>		
Arroyo Grande 2004, \$25	93	35
Arroyo Grande La Colline 2004, \$60	92	44
Arroyo Grande La Colline 2003, \$60	91	35
Arroyo Grande Les Galets 2004, \$60	93	44
Arroyo Grande Les Galets 2003, \$60	90	35
Arroyo Grande Reserve 2003, \$40	92	35
<b>Landmark Vineyards</b>		
Sonoma Coast Kanzler Vineyard 2004, \$48	96	41
Sonoma Coast Kastania Vineyard 2004, \$45	94	41
Sonoma Coast Grand Detour 2004, \$30	93	41
<b>Longoria</b>		
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2003, \$42	93	39
Santa Rita Hills Fe Ciega Vineyard 2003, \$42	94	39
<b>Loring Wine Company</b>		
California Hungry Like The Llama 2005, \$48	94	42
Chalone Brosseau Vineyard 2005, \$48	92	42
Chalone Naylor Dry Hole Vineyard 2005, \$48	92	42
Green Valley Keefer Ranch Vineyard 2005, \$48	95	42
Paso Robles Russell Family Vineyard 2005, \$48	92	42
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2005, \$48	93	42
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2005, \$48	97	42
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard 2005, \$48	95	42
Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2005, \$48	95	42
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2005, \$48	96	42
Sonoma Coast Durrell Vineyard 2005, \$48	92	42
<b>Lost Canyon Winery</b>		
Carneros Las Brisas Vineyard 2004, \$40	91	39
Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch-Morelli 2004, \$40	93	39
Russian River Valley Saralee's Vineyard 2004, \$40	92	39
<b>Lynmar Winery</b>		
Russian River Valley Quail Hill Vineyard 2003, \$45	90	39
<b>MacMurray Ranch</b>		
Russian River Valley 2003, \$35	87	37
Russian River Valley Winemakers Block 2003, \$50	93	37
Russian River Valley River Cuvee 2003, \$60	92	37
<b>MacPhail Family Wines</b>		
Anderson Valley Fratney Shams 2004, \$49	92	39
Anderson Valley Toulouse Vineyard 2004, \$37	95	39
Anderson Valley Toulouse Vineyard 2003, \$35	92	35
Russian River Valley 2003, \$40	93	35
Sonoma Coast 2004, \$40	92	39
Sonoma Coast Goodin Vineyard 2004, \$54	94	39
Sonoma Coast Pratt Vineyard 2004, \$56	92	39
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2004, \$58	93	39
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2003, \$40	92	35
<b>MacRostie</b>		
Carneros 2003, \$26	91	35
<b>Mana</b>		
Marlborough 2004, \$15	87	42
<b>Marimar Estate</b>		
Russian River Valley Dona Margarita 2004, \$45	91	44
Russian River Valley Don Miguel Vineyard 2003, \$35	92	44
Russian River Valley Don Miguel Vineyard 2002, \$35	92	39
Russian River Valley Earthquake Block 2003, \$42	91	35
Russian River Valley Cristina Selection 2003, \$47	92	44

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WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
<b>Martin Alfaro Winery</b>		
Santa Cruz Mountains Schultze Family Vyd. 2003, \$28	90	35
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$39	91	35
<b>Martinus Estate</b>		
Martinborough 2003, \$40	86	42
<b>Mayro-Murdick Wines</b>		
Carneros 2003, \$35	92	35
Hunterdon Santa Lucia Highlands 2004, \$15	91	35
<b>Merry Edwards</b>		
Russian River Valley 2003, \$34	91	38
Russian River Valley Klopp Ranch 2003, \$48	92	38
Sonoma Coast Meredith Estate 2003, \$48	92	38
<b>Miller Wine Works</b>		
Marin County Kendric Vineyard 2004, \$36	91	44
Sonoma Coast Hellenthal Vineyard 2003, \$33	92	38
<b>Morgan Winery</b>		
Santa Lucia Highlands Double L Vineyard 2004, \$50	95	39
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004, \$45	94	39
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004, \$45	95	39
<b>Morton Estate</b>		
Hawkes Bay White Label 2004, \$27	86	42
<b>Mount Michael</b>		
Central Otago 2003, \$29	90	42
<b>Napa Ridge</b>		
North Coast 2003, \$10	90	38
<b>Native9</b>		
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2004, \$48	94	38
<b>Nevis Bluff</b>		
Central Otago 2002, \$24	91	42
<b>Omaka Springs</b>		
Marlborough 2003, \$22	85	42
<b>Ortman Family Vineyards</b>		
Santa Rita Hills 2004, \$30	90	43
<b>Pali Wine Company</b>		
Russian River Valley Inman-Olivet Vineyard 2005, \$44	92	42
Santa Barbara County Cargasacchi Jalama 2005, \$44	93	42
Santa Rita Hills Turner Vineyard 2005, \$44	93	42
Sonoma Coast Durrell Vineyard 2005, \$44	94	42
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard 2005, \$44	94	42
<b>Papapietro Perry</b>		
Russian River Valley Ellsbree Vineyard 2004, \$45	93	38
Russian River Valley Leras Family Vineyards 2004, \$45	93	38
Russian River Valley Pommard Clones 2004, \$64	95	38
Sonoma Coast Mukaida Vineyard 2004, \$59	94	38
Sonoma Coast Peters Vineyard 2004, \$45	94	38
<b>Pey-Marin Vineyards</b>		
Marin County 2004, \$36	94	44
<b>Phillips Hill</b>		
Mendocino County Oppenlander Vineyard 2003, \$40	91	37
<b>Ponzi Vineyards</b>		
Willamette Valley 2003, \$30	89	37
<b>Radio-Coteau</b>		
Anderson Valley Savoy 2004, \$48	97	40
Russian River Valley Alberigi 2004, \$42	95	40
Sonoma Coast La Neblina 2004, \$40	94	40
Sonoma Coast Terra Neuma 2004, \$48	95	40
<b>Rippon Vineyard</b>		
Central Otago 2003, \$36	93	42

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Central Otago 2001, \$33	91	42
<b>Roar Wines</b>		
Santa Lucia Highlands 2004, \$35	92	40
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004, \$49	95	40
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2004, \$49	94	40
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004, \$45	94	40
<b>Robert Hunter</b>		
Sonoma Valley 2003, \$35	84	37
<b>Rockburn</b>		
Central Otago 2003, \$35	91	42
Central Otago 2002, \$35	89	42
<b>Roessler Cellars</b>		
Anderson Valley Alder Springs Vineyard 2004, \$42	94	40
Anderson Valley Blue Jay 2004, \$32	93	40
Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2004, \$38	95	40
Santa Rita Hills Sanford & Benedict Vineyard 2004, \$46	94	40
Sonoma Coast Griffin's Lair 2004, \$45	94	40
Sonoma Coast Kanzler Vineyard La Brisa 2004, \$45	95	40
Sonoma Coast La Brisa 2004, \$28	94	40
Sonoma County Red Label 2004, \$26	93	40
<b>Row Eleven</b>		
San Luis Obispo/Mendocino 2002, \$24	85	35
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Quarter 116 2002, \$35	85	35
Santa Maria Valley 2002, \$29	86	35
<b>Russian Hill</b>		
Russian River Valley 2004, \$30	91	44
Russian River Valley Estate Vineyard 2004, \$32	93	44
Russian River Valley Estate Vineyard 2003, \$32	92	35
Russian River Valley Leras Vineyard 2004, \$40	94	44
Russian River Valley Leras Vineyard 2003, \$38	92	35
Russian River Valley Tara Vineyard 2004, \$42	95	44
Russian River Valley Tara Vineyard 2003, \$42	93	35
Sonoma Coast Meredith Vineyard 2004, \$42	93	44
Sonoma Coast Meredith Vineyard 2003, \$40	93	35
<b>Russian River Vineyards</b>		
Russian River Valley 2002, \$34	91	41
<b>Saint Clair</b>		
Marlborough Vicars Choice 2005, \$13	91	42
Marlborough 2005, \$15	87	42
Marlborough Doctor's Creek Reserve 2004, \$24	92	42
<b>Saintsbury</b>		
Carneros 2003, \$30	90	37
Carneros Garnet 2004, \$17	89	37
<b>Sanctuary</b>		
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2004, \$36	92	43
<b>Sarah's Vineyard</b>		
Santa Clara Valley Estate Reserve 2002, \$30	86	35
<b>Savannah-Chanelle</b>		
Russian River Valley Tina Marie Vineyard 2003, \$50	92	37
<b>Schug Carneros Estate</b>		
Carneros 2004, \$22	92	39
Carneros Heritage Reserve 2003, \$30	91	39
<b>Scott Paul Wines</b>		
Willamette Valley Audrey 2004, \$55	93	43
Willamette Valley La Paulee 2004, \$38	94	43
<b>Sea Smoke Cellars</b>		
Santa Rita Hills Botella 2003, \$30	94	35
Santa Rita Hills Southing 2003, \$50	93	35
Santa Rita Hills Ten 2003, \$70	93	35

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WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
<b>Shaky Bridge</b>		
Central Otago 2003, \$29	91	42
<b>Shea Wine Cellars</b>		
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Estate 2004, \$38	94	39
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Block 23 2004, \$48	96	39
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard East Hill 2004, \$42	95	39
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Homer 2004, \$75	95	39
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Wadenswil 2004, \$48	94	39
<b>Sherwood Estate</b>		
Marlborough 2005, \$16	87	42
<b>Siduri Wines</b>		
Russian River Valley 2004, \$26	93	37
Russian River Valley Amber Ridge Vineyard 2004, \$42	92	40
Russian River Valley Olivet Grange Vineyard 2004, \$42	94	40
Russian River Valley Sapphire Hill Vineyard 2004, \$42	93	40
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2004, \$52	93	37
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004, \$42	87	40
Santa Rita Hills 2004, \$25	92	40
Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2004, \$52	94	37
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2004, \$52	94	37
Sonoma County 2004, \$19	92	37
Willamette Valley 2004, \$19	91	37
Willamette Valley Muirfield Vineyard 2004, \$39	93	40
<b>Sleeping Dogs</b>		
Central Otago 2004, \$25	87	42
<b>Sojourn Cellars</b>		
Sonoma Coast 2005, \$36	95	43
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2005, \$48	97	43
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2004, \$42	95	41
<b>Sokol Blosser Winery</b>		
Willamette Valley Dundee Hills 2002, \$26	91	35
<b>Sonnet Wine Cellars</b>		
Santa Lucia Highlands Tondre Grapefield 2003, \$40	92	35
York Mountain Kruse Vineyard 2004, \$40	92	44
<b>Sonoma Coast Vineyards</b>		
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$60	86	39
Sonoma Coast 2002, \$60	86	39
<b>Spy Valley</b>		
Marlborough 2003, \$30	88	42
<b>Stephen Ross</b>		
Edna Valley 2003, \$25	91	37
Edna Valley Stone Corral Vineyard 2003, \$45	92	37
San Luis Obispo County Aubaine Vineyard 2004, \$40	92	43
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2004, \$35	91	43
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2003, \$35	91	37
<b>Stephen's Cellar</b>		
Central Coast 2002, \$16	87	39
San Luis Obispo County Encell Vineyard 2003, \$24	86	39
San Luis Obispo County William Cain Vyd. 2003, \$18	87	39
<b>Stoller Vineyards</b>		
Dundee Hills JV 2004, \$22	91	39
Willamette Valley 2003, \$36	92	39
<b>Tandem Winery</b>		
Green Valley Keefer Ranch Vineyard 2004, \$42	92	42
Sonoma Coast Hellenthal Vineyard 2004, \$60	93	42
Sonoma Mountain Van Der Kamp Vineyard 2004, \$48	94	42
<b>TAZ Vineyards</b>		
Santa Barbara County 2003, \$25	92	37
Santa Maria Valley Cuyama River 2003, \$28	91	37
Santa Rita Hills Fiddlestix Vineyard 2003, \$35	92	37

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
<b>Te Kairanga</b>		
Martinborough 2004, \$19	86	42
Martinborough Runholder 2004, \$29	91	42
Martinborough Reserve 2003, \$39	90	42
<b>Testarossa Vineyards</b>		
California Cuvee Nicleire 2004, \$75	92	44
Central Coast Palazzio 2004, \$34	90	39
Chalone Brosseau Vineyard 2004, \$54	92	44
Russian River Valley Fritschen Vineyard 2004, \$54	93	44
Santa Cruz Mountains Schultz Family Vyd. 2004, \$54	92	44
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004, \$54	93	44
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2004, \$54	92	44
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2003, \$54	93	37
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004, \$54	93	39
Santa Lucia Highlands Sleepy Hollow Vyd. 2004, \$54	89	39
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Elder Series 2004, \$54	93	39
Santa Rita Hills Sanford & Benedict Vineyard 2004, \$54	92	39
Sonoma Coast La Cruz Vineyard 2004, \$54	93	44
<b>Torlesse</b>		
Canterbury 2004, \$22	87	42
<b>TR Elliott</b>		
Russian River Valley Queste 2003, \$28	86	37
Russian River Valley Queste 2002, \$26	88	37
<b>Truchard Vineyard</b>		
Carneros 2002, \$28	93	37
<b>Valerie's Vineyard</b>		
Carneros 2004, \$44	90	39
<b>Verve</b>		
Russian River Valley 2003, \$30	87	38
<b>Waitiri Creek</b>		
Central Otago 2002, \$27	87	42
<b>Waltzing Bear</b>		
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$45	91	35
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2003, \$42	93	35
Santa Maria Valley Solomon Hills 2003, \$45	93	35
Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Jalama 2003, \$42	92	35
Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Jalama 2002, \$36	92	35
<b>Wild Horse Winery</b>		
Central Coast 2003, \$23	88	40
Santa Barbara County Cheval Sauvage 2003, \$50	88	40
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Unbridled 2003, \$40	91	40
<b>Willakenzie Estate</b>		
Willamette Valley 2004, \$23	92	44
<b>Williams Selyem</b>		
Anderson Valley Ferrington Vineyard 2003, \$59	87	38
Central Coast 2004, \$29	87	38
Central Coast 2003, \$29	86	38
Russian River Valley 2004, \$42	87	38
Russian River Valley 2003, \$42	90	38
Russian River Valley Allen Vineyard 2002, \$72	92	38
Russian River Valley Bucher Vineyard 2003, \$49	89	38
Russian River Valley Westside Road Neighbors 2004, \$62	92	38
Russian River Valley Westside Road Neighbors 2002, \$59	93	38
San Benito County Vista Verde Vineyard 2003, \$49	87	38
Sonoma Coast 2004, \$39	88	38
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$38	87	38
Sonoma Coast Coastlands Vineyard 2003, \$62	92	38
Sonoma Coast Precious Mountain Vineyard 2002, \$80	93	38
Sonoma County 2004, \$32	86	38
Sonoma County 2003, \$32	89	38
Yorkville Highlands Weir Vineyard 2003, \$49	89	38

[PNR]

## **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>

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