

IN THE MARKET: Recent Pinot Noir Reviews

Ortman Family Vineyards

Veteran winemaker Chuck Ortman continues to impress with his balance-driven style of Pinot from Santa Rita Hills, and now also from the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

Ortman Family Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Fiddlestix Vineyard 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; subtle aromas of spice, pepper and plum; rich and deep with juicy plum and black cherry, pepper and spicy notes; sweet oak, good structure and balance; long finish. This is a delicious, extremely well balanced Pinot from the Santa Rita Hills—a great wine for the table.

120 cases made \$40 Score: 91

Ortman Family Vineyards

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, spicy, cola aromas with some earth and plum; deep, rich plum and cherry flavors, nice spicy, cola notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and flavorful, this wine has interesting earthy flavors that add complexity.

700 cases made \$30 Score: 90

Ortman Family Vineyards

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; earthy, forest floor aromas with some cherry notes; deep, intense flavors of black cherry, earth and forest floor; toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and interesting, this Pinot has a lot to offer a big beef or lamb dish.

220 cases made \$30 Score: 90

Pey-Marin Vineyards

Husband and wife team Jonathan and Susan Pey (along with a

few others) have made a definitive statement about the quality of Pinot Noir possible in the western reaches of Marin County. Their Pey-Marin Pinots are sourced from two vineyards each less than eight miles from the Pacific Ocean. A winery to watch.

Pey-Marin Vineyards

Pinot Noir Marin County Trois Filles 2003

Deep ruby purple color; rich, deep aromas of black cherry, tea and earth; lush, complex black cherry, tea and forest floor flavors, silky texture, sweet oak, great structure and balance; long finish. This is an elegant and very pretty Pinot—beautiful silky texture and flavors. From western Marin County, where more and more excellent Pinot is beginning to emerge.

269 cases made \$33 Score: 93

Roar Wines

Gary and Rosella Francioni, third generation growers in the Santa Lucia Highlands, are proprietors of Roar Wines, proprietors of Rosella's Vineyard and partners with Gary Pisoni in Garys' Vineyard. It's hard to find a Pinot winemaker in Santa Lucia Highlands who Gary hasn't helped out in one way or another. The Francionis are perfect proof that an artisan's wines are a true reflection of the person. Like their wines, Gary and Rosella are beautiful, classy people.

Roar Wines

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; subtle, pretty aromas of black cherry, plum and spice; rich, ripe, black cherry and plum flavors with spicy, sweet oak notes and light tannins; great structure and balance; long finish. Rich and beautiful, this Pinot is another in a string of great wines from Gary Francioni. Siduri's Adam Lee is the winemaker.

400 cases made \$44 Score: 95

MAKE ROOM IN THE CELLAR!

"Complex flavors..."

Chehalem

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Stoller Vineyard 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; earthy, forest floor aromas with some berry and cherry notes; deep and rich with beautiful cherry and berry fruit, complex earthy and forest floor notes; silky texture, good structure and balance; long finish. Very nicely integrated—delicious complex flavors and terrific balance make me want to drink more and more of this Pinot.

413 cases made \$39 Score: 94

SMART BUY!

"Truly delicious..."

Landmark Vineyards

Pinot Noir Sonoma County Grand Detour 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; spicy, cherry aromas with some earthy notes; rich, juicy cherry fruit, silky texture, spicy, sweet oak, good structure and balance; lingering finish. Truly delicious, the Grand Detour has over the past two vintages undergone an evolution from the somewhat esoteric style that the Van der Kamp vineyard produced to a more mainstream and versatile style—and it's definitely a positive evolution.

1,100 cases made \$27 Score: 93