



# Testarossa Vineyards

LOS GATOS • CALIFORNIA

## 2004 Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir

Deep red color. Aromas of cherry, strawberry, nutmeg, crème brûlée, and cloves jump out of the glass initially. This wine begins smooth with supple tannins wrapped around the cherry and spice profile. This wine also shows a lot of weight and concentration in the mouthfeel. The finish ends strong and intense. Should drink well for 8-10 years.

*Bill Brosseau, Winemaker*

2002

**92**  
points

Silky texture, rich cherry fruit, great notes of bacon, spice and toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Elegant Pinot with the structure to stand up to a hearty dish.  
*PinotReport - November 2004*

Very highly recommended

**91**  
points

Attractive, intense, spicy, elegant, complex, cedary, red berry and cherry fruit aroma with notes of mocha and vanilla. Velvety mouth feel.  
*California Grapevine - August 2004*



**91**  
points

While sporting the ripeness and sweet fruit that are hallmarks of fine California Pinot Noir, this keenly constructed wine shows more layered complexity than most. Impeccably balanced.  
*Connoisseurs' Guide - November 2004*

2001

93 points *Wine Spectator - April 2004*  
93 points *Restaurant Wine - January 2004*  
90 points *PinotReport - April 2004*

2000

91 points *Connoisseurs' Guide - November 2002*  
91 points *Wine Enthusiast - February 2003*

1999

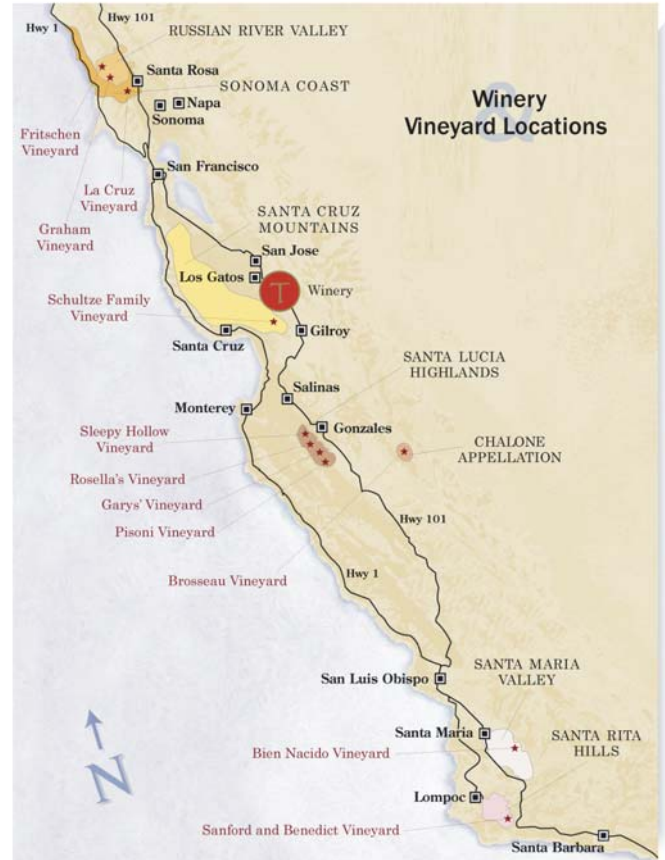
92 points *Wine Advocate - June 2002*  
91 points *Wine Spectator - March 2002*

1998

94 points *Wine Enthusiast - December 2001*  
91 points *Wine Advocate - June 2002*

1997

91 points *Wine Enthusiast - October 2000*



Passion in Every Glass!

# 2004 Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir

## Tasting notes from winemaker Bill Brosseau:

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## What is Testarossa's Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir?

Cuvee Niclaire is named for Nick and Claire Jensen, the children of winery founders Rob and Diana Jensen. Made from only our best seven to ten barrels each year, this cuvee (blend) is our most prestigious reserve-level Pinot Noir, marrying complementary rich flavors and aromas from our multiple cool-climate California vineyards.

## Flavor Profiles: Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir

Silk, balance, elegance, rich fruit, and "another glass please" are what Cuvee Niclaire is all about. Spicy rich cherry characteristics from Santa Barbara County combine with red plum, black cherry, herb and mineral notes from our Monterey County vineyards to create layers of complexity in the glass and a symphony of flavors on the palate.

## Testarossa's Style:

### Complexity, Balance, and Silky Texture

Testarossa's "house style" is to create wines of uncommon complexity for you to enjoy, while maintaining the beautiful balance of natural wine flavors, hints of toasty new oak, a backbone of natural acidity, and silky smooth texture that make our wines feel as good as they taste.

## Testarossa's Special Pinot Noir Winemaking Techniques

It all starts in the vineyard where our winemaker, Bill Brosseau, works with our growers to balance the vines so they produce rich, flavorful, and nutritionally healthy fruit, without over or under stressing the vines. All of the fruit is carefully hand sorted, and a gravity flow process is used throughout fermentation. In the cellar we do an extended pre-fermentation cold-soak, and then use a special strain of yeast in our small custom designed 5-ton stainless steel fermentors.

## Unique Characteristics of the 2004 Vintage

2004 started off with an unusually warm dry spring, resulting in enhanced fruitfulness in the vineyards. Moderately warm summer temperatures meant harvest would come a week or two early. September began with a big heat spike, low humidity, and little fog, which meant that harvest ramped up to full capacity instantly. Color and tannin intensity of the wines are pleasantly balanced with a rich fruit forward focus.

Vineyards	Bien Nacido, Garys', Pisoni, Rosella's, Sleepy Hollow
Appellations	Santa Maria Valley, Santa Lucia Highlands
Years planted	1973 through 1999
Average yield	2.7 tons per acre
Harvest	2004
Average sugar	26.8
Average total acidity	7.4g/l
Average pH	3.35
Dates harvested	9/4 - 9/18/2004
<b>Bottle:</b>	
Alcohol	14.7%
Total acidity	6.8g/l
pH	3.44
Bottling date	2/16/2006
Time in oak	16 months
Percent new oak	68%
Production	197 cases
Release date	September 2006
Suggested retail price	\$75/bottle
Opt. time for consumption	2009-2015

## 2004 Winery of the Year



January 2004

"In only a decade, this small Los Gatos winery has established a solid reputation for the consistent quality of its wines, which are among the best now being produced in the USA."

Ronn Wiegand, MW & MS, Editor



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