

PINOTREPORT

for people passionate about western pinot noir

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The Pinot Passion Awards

THIS IS THE ISSUE DEVOTED TO GIVING RECOGNITION TO THOSE who devote their lives and livelihoods to growing, making and enjoying great Pinot Noir. **My fourth 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.

I've tried to recognize the passion in several different ways. I offer my "**Top 12 Pinot Noirs**" and my "**Top 12 Pinot Values**" of 2005 to recognize the obvious passion of the winegrowers and winemakers that manifests itself in these incredible wines. I've also include 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 2005**" 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 2005**" recognizes those who are moving up very quickly and are definitely vintners to watch.

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.

Also in this issue, look for the **2005 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.

My next issue (#37) will be released at the end of February and will include trip reports from my recent travels, and many wine reviews.

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

-- Gregory S. Walter, editor and publisher



2005 WINNER

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

Ponzi To Add Vineyard, New Winery

Ponzi Vineyards owners **Dick and Nancy Ponzi** have announced that they have purchased a 42-acre parcel on **Chehalem Mountain** in the northern **Willamette Valley** that will house a new estate vineyard and eventually a new winemaking facility for the family-owned winery.

The as yet unnamed hillside property is located between the cities of **Newberg** and **Beaverton**, one mile east of the Ponzi's **Aurora Vineyard**, and is currently planted to hazelnut and walnut orchards. The family plans to plant 15 acres of the land this spring; 10 acres to **Pinot Noir** and the remaining five acres to **Chardonnay** and **Pinot Gris**.

The winery is expected to be built gradually in stages to achieve a top-end capacity of 30,000 cases and hitting 20,000 cases in the next five years. The Ponzi family has several in-house resources it plans to tap to help design the new winery: Dick Ponzi, founder of the winery is a structural design engineer; winemaker **Luisa Ponzi** and her husband, **Eric Hamacher** of **Hamacher Wines**, co-founded and created the award-winning **Carlton Winemakers Studio** custom crush facility and marketing director **Maria Ponzi's** husband, **Brett Fogelstrom**, is a commercial and residential builder.

Ponzi Vineyards was established in 1970, and as such was one of the pioneers in Oregon's wine industry. It is truly a family run business with the second generation of Ponzis taking leading roles in the winery management.

Montinore Estate Winery Sold

Former New Jersey wine broker **Rudy Marchesi** has purchased Oregon winery **Montinore Estate**, where he has been president since 1993. Prior to joining the winery as vice president of operations in 2001, Marchesi sold the Montinore wines on the East Coast while heading up the fine wine division of **Allied Beverage Group**.

Montinore Estate, established in 1982 and located in the northern Willamette Valley, will continue to operate as a family-run business, according to Marchesi, but there are changes ahead including an effort to obtain certification for biodynamic farming. During his tenure, he has cut production from 70,000 cases to 35,000 cases through some pretty drastic yield reduction in the vineyards.

Marchesi is also co-founder of **Alba Vineyard** in Finesville, New Jersey, and twice served as president of **Garden State Winegrowers Association**, and as chair of the **New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Wine Advisory Council**.

Colorado Direct Ship Law Moves Forward

A bill making it legal for wineries in any state to ship wine directly to consumers in Colorado is moving through the state legislature. **Bill 1120** has already passed in two committees and is getting closer to a floor vote. If passed and signed by the governor, it would change the current very complicated Colorado law which permits adult residents to order a limited amount of wine from local and out of state producers to one that would allow unlimited direct shipments in the state.

Wineries wishing to ship to consumers in the state would only pay \$50 per year for a license and would pay excise taxes to the **Colorado Department of Revenue**.

Fennell Hired As Sanford Winemaker

Steve Fennell, formerly winemaker at **Voss Vineyards** in the Napa Valley, has been named winemaker at **Sanford Winery** in the **Santa Rita Hills**, according to a spokesman for winery owner Illinois-based **Terlato Wine Group**. Fennell replaces longtime winemaker **Bruno D'Alfonso**, who was fired in December. After studying enology at **U.C.-Davis**, Fennell was assistant winemaker at **Trefethen Vineyards** before joining Voss Vineyards in 1999. Fennell will report to **Doug Fletcher**, Terlato's director of winemaking, who manages Terlato Wine Group's other winery holdings, Chimney Rock, Rutherford Hill, Alderbrook, and Terlato Vineyards.

CA Pinot Harvest Up 34%

California's 2005 total wine grape crush was the largest in state history. At 3.74 million tons, the crush is almost 1 million tons more than the 2004 harvest, according to the California Agricultural Statistics Service. **Pinot Noir**—predicted to be in short supply in 2005—was up 34 percent over 2004. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah were both up 50 percent, Merlot was up 45 percent, Chardonnay was up 41 percent, Sauvignon Blanc was up 48 percent and Pinot Grigio was up 36 percent compared to 2004.

[PNR]

TOP

12

PINOT

NOIRS

OF 2005

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

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

1.

Loring Wine Company

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2004

Deep ruby purple color; deep, slightly closed aromas with hints of pepper and cassis; big, bold flavors of black cherry and cassis, deep layers of pepper and spice notes; moderate tannin; smoky oak; great structure and balance; very long finish.

Amazing depth and complex flavors mark this Pinot from a great vineyard and a great winemaker. Peter Cargasacchi's vineyard is located at the western end of the Santa Rita Hills. And contrary to what Brian Loring always says about his wines, this one will definitely reward some time in the cellar. If you can't wait, make sure you give it at least a good hour or two in the glass. Originally published *in issue #34*.

125 cases made \$48 Score: 97

2.

Kosta Browne

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2003

Deep ruby color; intense black cherry, cinnamon and spice, very complex aromas; big and full with a deep core of black cherry flavors with cinnamon, spice and sweet oak, concentrated flavors, great structure and balance, long finish.

The depth and complexity of this Pinot is just amazing—the layers of flavors just keep on coming as the wine opens in the glass. This bottling is made up of three vineyards: Carinali Vineyard and Kanzler Vineyard, both from the cool Petaluma Gap area, and Amber Ridge from Russian River Valley. My hat's off to Dan Kosta and Michael Browne for a simply amazing Pinot. *Originally published in issue #29*.

790 cases made \$28 Score: 96

3.

Loring Wine Company

Pinot Noir Green Valley Keefer Ranch 2004

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, lush, black cherry aromas with spice and forest floor notes; rich, deep, complex and juicy red cherry flavors, spicy, bright, nice touch of forest floor, excellent structure and balance; long finish.

This is classic Keefer Ranch—an absolute delight to drink. This is Brian Loring's first vintage from Keefer Ranch, planted in 1985 by the Keefer family and located west of Graton in the Green Valley AVA. His deft touch has taken this amazing vineyard to a new height. *Originally published in issue #34*.

300 cases made \$48 Score: 96

4.

Radio-Coteau

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; very aromatic with floral, spice, smoked meat and black cherry notes; big, complex, rich, black cherry, spicy flavors with a touch of smoky oak and floral notes, great structure and balance, long finish.

I think that Eric Sussman is really in sync with the Savoy Vineyard—I like this wine even more than I liked the 2002 version. The aromatics are wonderful; the flavors even better. This is definitely a wine to follow in future vintages. Incredible Pinot. *Originally published in issue #27*.

440 cases made \$45 Score: 95

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5.

Roessler Cellars

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, spicy, black cherry aromas with forest floor notes; rich and silky on the palate with intense and deep black cherry fruit, complex spice and sweet oak flavors; great structure and balance; long finish.

This Pinot tastes so good, it's hard to know what else to say. It's a beautifully rich and complex statement of how good Russian River Pinot can be. Roger Roessler and his winemaker Wells Guthrie continue to craft simply terrific wines from some of the more interesting vineyards in California. Grapes are from the Thomas Road and Morelli Lane vineyards in the Russian River Valley and the Cleary Vineyard in Freestone. *Originally published in issue #29.*

186 cases made \$36 Score: 95

6.

Shea Wine Cellars

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Block 32 2003

Deep ruby purple color; incredibly rich and deep blackcherry, spice and vanilla aromas; big, full and rich in the mouth with great deep black cherry, spice, earth and sweet oak flavors; great structure and balance; long finish.

Amazing depth and complexity, amazing presence in the mouth—there's considerable tannin but it's all in balance. Block 32 is in the "West Hill" area of the Shea Vineyard and is planted to the Waidenswill Clone. Another home run for Dick Shea, and while the winery will not be making a Block 32 bottling in the future, this block's excellent fruit will live on in the 2004 vintage as part of the Waidenswill bottling. *Originally published in issue #29.*

167 cases made \$48 Score: 95

7.

A. P. Vin

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's 2004

Medium-deep ruby color; deep black cherry and plum aromas, hint of lavender and sweet oak; deep and rich, with intense black cherry and plum flavors, hints of lavender and smoky meat; great structure and balance, long finish.

Rich and vibrant, with lots of complexity and silky texture, it's simply delicious right now. Although he's pretty new at making

wine, vintner Andrew Vingiello has sure dialed in a silky, lush style of Pinot. Getting fruit from Rosella's Vineyard certainly doesn't hurt. Watch for some really nice 2005s from A.P. Vin. *Originally published in issue #33.*

125 cases made \$45 Score: 95

8.

Halleck Vineyard

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2003

Deep ruby purple color; deep and complex aromas of black cherry, forest floor, cinnamon; very deep, rich and complex in the mouth with deep black cherry, spice, forest floor and the right touch of sweet oak; great structure, balance, long finish.

This Pinot has incredible depth and complexity of flavors and yet has a razor sharp focused black cherry fruit. From Ross Halleck's one-acre estate vineyard; Greg La Follette is the winemaker. Ross also makes a Russian River Valley blend, the Three Sons Cuvee that's also worthy of your attention. *Originally published in issue #33.*

100 cases made \$58 Score: 95

9.

Freeman Vineyards & Winery

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Akiko's Cuvee 2003

Deep ruby purple color; very deep and slightly closed aromas of black cherry and spice; deep, full and rich with black cherry and a hint of cinnamon; sweet oak, great structure and balance; long finish.

Ken and Akiko Freeman, along with winemaker Ed Kurtzman have really stepped out with this wine—it's amazingly deep and complex with all of the silkiness of their regular Sonoma Coast bottling. These are some of the most supple and lush Sonoma Coast Pinots around. *Originally published in issue #29.*

150 cases made \$45 Score: 95

10.

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 and Rosella Franscioni, third generation

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growers in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Siduri's Adam Lee is the winemaker for Roar. *Originally published in issue #34.*

400 cases made \$44 Score: 95

11.

Patz & Hall

Pinot Noir Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep, intense, berry and spice aromas; big, full and rich with intense berry and red cherry flavors, a nice earthy thread and sweet oak, silky mouthfeel, great balance and structure, long finish.

This Pinot is probably the most consistent example of how good Carneros Pinot can be and how much the style has changed over the years. I think that this is best Pinot Noir available from this benchmark vineyard. Great vineyard, great wine. *Originally published in issue #30.*

1,011 cases made \$50 Score: 95

12.

Merry Edwards

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Windsor Gardens 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; deep and intense spicy and cherry aromas with earthy notes; rich, deep and intense cherry, spice, lavender and earthy notes; moderate oak and tannin, great structure and a long finish.

Merry Edwards has made a Pinot bottling from the Windsor Gardens vineyard for five years and it has always been an exceptional Pinot. This is the final vintage from this vineyard as it has been lost to a housing development. A great Pinot for the cellar. *Originally published in issue #33.*

560 cases made \$57 Score: 95

HONORABLE MENTIONS

August West

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, rich, lots of black cherry, spice, plum and bacon aromas; rich and deep, lush and silky, black cherry and plum flavors with really nice bacon and earthy notes; great structure and balance; long finish. This is a truly delicious Pinot with everything you'd want in a wine to drink by itself or with a wide variety of dishes. Ed Kurtzman has done it again. *Originally published in issue #28.*

184 cases made \$42 Score: 94

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. *Originally published in issue #34.*

413 cases made \$39 Score: 94

Clos Pepe Estate

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2003

Deep ruby purple color; deep and complex with black cherry and plum aromas, spice and a bit of pepper; rich, deep and full with an abundance of plum and black cherry flavors, sweet oak, spice and pepper; great depth, structure and balance; long finish. Rich, full and amazingly deep, this Pinot has everything you'd expect from Santa Rita Hills. Steve, Wes and everyone at Clos Pepe should take a bow. *Originally published in issue #32.*

375 cases made \$37 Score: 94

Loring Wine Company

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's 2004

Deep ruby purple color; deep, complex and elegant aromas of black cherry, spice and smoke; rich, juicy cherry and plum fruit, intense spice and smoked meat notes; silky texture, great depth of flavor; great structure and balance; long finish. Amazingly rich and silky, Brian Loring has hit another home run with this Rosella's bottling. *Originally published in issue #34.*

750 cases made \$48 Score: 96

Loring Wine Company

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2003

Deep ruby purple color; deep, berry/cherry aromas, earthy, pepper notes on nose; deep, intense cherry flavors, great spice and pepper notes, moderate tannin and toasty oak, good structure and balance; long finish. This is a remarkable Pinot with incredible juicy fruit, great balance and delicious flavors. *Originally published in issue #27.*

125 cases made \$46 Score: 96

Papapietro Perry Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Pommard Clones 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; subtle smoky aromas, nice black cherry notes on nose; rich, full, deep core of juicy black cherry fruit, spice, earthy, smoky notes, sweet oak, good structure and balance; long finish. The depth and richness in this Pinot is just amazing. Made from Pommard clone blocks in the Leras Family and Peters vineyards. *Originally published in issue #32.*

100 cases made \$58 Score: 94

TOP

12

PINOT

VALUES

OF 2005

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

"Great Pinot at an unbelievable price..."

1.

Sebastiani Vineyards

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; full, deep, complex aromas of black cherry, chocolate, cinnamon and oak; deep and rich, silky black cherry, chocolate and spice flavors with a touch of oak and tannin; great balance and structure; long finish.

Beautifully balanced and intense—this wine has amazing depth of flavor. Year after year, winemaker Mark Lyon makes terrific Pinots from vineyards in the Carneros, Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast regions. If you haven't had this wine, you're missing out. *Originally published in issue #31.*

16,300 cases made \$15 Score: 94

2.

Mirassou

Pinot Noir California 2004

Medium-deep ruby purple color; rich, bright and juicy raspberry aromas; bright raspberry fruit, spicy flavors, light in body, good acidity, nicely balanced with a lingering finish.

A very youthful, bright Pinot—delicious to drink now. Mirassou is now owned by E. & J. Gallo and as such benefits from a tremendous pool of vineyard sources. This is the second vintage I've liked. *Originally published in issue #31.*

25,000 cases made \$11 Score: 91

3.

Five Rivers Winery

Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County 2004

Medium-deep ruby purple color; rich cherry, plum aromas, rich, spicy cherry and plum flavors, nice texture, good structure and balance; lingering finish.

Terrific middle of the road style with a lot to like in the rich, bright fruit flavors. Five Rivers is a spinoff of the Fetzler brand with its own winery in Paso Robles, Calif., and grape sources in Santa Barbara County. *Originally published in issue #35.*

25,000 cases made \$10 Score: 88

4.

Turning Leaf

Pinot Noir Sonoma County Sonoma Reserve 2003

Medium ruby purple color; red cherry, spice and a slight cheese rind aroma; rich with sour cherry and spice notes, good structure and balance, lingering finish.

This is a solid, medium bodied Pinot with a good core of delicious cherry fruit; perfect for the table. *Originally published in issue #31.*

40,000 cases made \$10 Score: 89

5.

Gallo of Sonoma

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Reserve 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; delicate aromas of red cherry

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with spice and floral notes; rich, full, lots of juicy red cherry fruit along with cinnamon and sweet oak; silky mouthfeel, good structure and balance, lingering finish.

This is not a big Pinot by any means, it is however, a silky, well balanced and delicious Pinot that will please many. *Originally published in issue #31.*

30,000 cases made \$13 Score: 92

6.

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

7.

Laurier Vineyards

Pinot Noir Carneros 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; red cherry and earthy aromas; rich and round, silky texture, red cherry, earth, spice and some toasty oak flavors; good structure and balance; long finish.

Rich, ripe Pinot; medium bodied style with lots of silky cherry flavor—great for the table. *Originally published in issue #28.*

10,000 cases made \$14 Score: 89

8.

Acacia Winery

Pinot Noir Carneros 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; spicy, black cherry and cinnamon aromas with some sweet oak; rich, ripe, lots of black cherry and spice with moderate tannin and a good dose of sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish.

This is a Pinot that deftly walks the line between elegance and muscle; it has all the pretty black cherry and spice notes as well as the stuffing to stand up to a big meal. *Originally published in issue #30.*

24,000 cases made \$20 Score: 92

9.

Edna Valley Vineyard

Pinot Noir Edna Valley Paragon Vineyard 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, rich aromas of dusty cherry, cinnamon notes; rich, juicy cherry fruit, lots of spice and cinnamon, sweet oak, nice balance and structure; lingering finish.

A medium-bodied Pinot for the table—the rich fruit, spicy notes and good structure make this a versatile wine. *Originally published in issue #30.*

17,500 cases made \$16 Score: 92

10.

Raye's Hill Vineyards & Winery

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley 2001

Medium ruby purple color; deep, concentrated berry/cherry aromas with a hint of pine; rich and deep with concentrated black cherry and spice flavors mixed with sweet oak, silky in the mouth with good structure and balance; lingering finish.

This Pinot has a lot of deep and concentrated flavors and will really benefit from some air time in the glass. *Originally published in issue #29.*

750 cases made \$18 Score: 93

11.

Fleur de California

Pinot Noir Carneros 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; spicy, cherry aromas with a hint of herbs; rich cherry flavors, spicy/herbal notes, some tannin and oak, good structure, lingering finish.

A nice, medium bodied Pinot with a lot to offer for the table. *Originally published in issue #31.*

6,500 cases made \$12 Score: 87

12.

Kendall-Jackson

Pinot Noir California Vintner's Reserve 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, stewed fruit and pepper aromas; rich and ripe with stewed cherry and plum flavors,

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notes of pepper and some oak; good structure, lingering finish. A ripe and tasty Pinot with good balance and a nice middle of the road style for the table. *Originally published in issue #32.*

50,000 cases made \$14 Score: 86

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Adelaida

Pinot Noir Paso Robles SLO 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, stewed plum aromas with a touch of savory spice; spicy stewed plum flavors, some complexity, toasty oak, good structure and balance, long finish. Big, forward style with some nice reduced fruit flavors. *Originally published in issue #28.*

1,190 cases made \$15 Score: 86

Chateau St. Jean

Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; deep spice, cinnamon and earth aromas; full and deep, with juicy red cherry fruit, spice and cinnamon notes; silky texture, good structure and balance, long finish. Delicious, juicy fruit and silky texture make this a delight to drink. *Originally published in issue #28.*

11,870 cases made \$19 Score: 91

Elk Cove Vineyards

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2003

Deep ruby purple color; rich cherry and berry aromas with some earthy notes; rich and forward cherry and berry fruit, spicy notes with sweet oak; good structure and balance; lingering finish. Fruity and delicious, this is a great middle of the road style of Pinot. *Originally published in issue #34.*

9,000 cases made \$24 Score: 91

Forest Ville

Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2003

Medium-deep ruby color; bright aromas of red cherry and spice with a touch of cinnamon; bright cherry fruit, medium body, crisp acidity, spicy flavors, good structure with a lingering finish. This is a lighter style of Pinot with delicious bright cherry flavors. *Originally published in issue #28.*

10,000 cases made \$15 Score: 89

King Estate

Pinot Noir Oregon 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; spicy, rich aromas of cherry and sweet oak; lots of sour cherry flavors, nice spicy notes and toasty oak, good balance and structure, lingering finish. A very pleasant Pinot—lots of delicious flavors make this drinkable,

medium-bodied Pinot great for just about any occasion. *Originally published in issue #30.*

16,529 cases made \$24 Score: 92

Lincourt

Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, cherry and earthy aromas; lots of cherry fruit, spice and earthy flavors; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich and earthy flavors characterize this solid regional Pinot. A blend of the Dierberg Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley and Rancho Santa Rosa in Santa Rita Hills. From Foley Estates. *Originally published in issue #28.*

4,825 cases made \$22 Score: 89

MacRostie Winery

Pinot Noir Carneros 2002

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, smoky cherry and spice on the nose; rich and ripe cherry fruit dominate the palate with nice notes of spice, cinnamon, and toasty oak; great balance and structure; long finish. Delicious, complex and rich—could be one of the best Pinots I've had from Steve MacRostie to date. *Originally published in issue #28.*

2,440 cases made \$24 Score: 93

Schug Carneros Estate Winery

Pinot Noir Carneros 2003

Medium-deep ruby purple color; earthy, with spice aromas; rich and full, some tannin, earthy, cinnamon, spice, toasty oak and some cherry and plum flavors, good structure with a long finish. Big and rich style of Pinot with flavors that match most grilled meats and seafood. *Originally published in issue #30.*

5,355 cases made \$20 Score: 91

Three Saints

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2002

Deep ruby purple color; deep, concentrated, intense aromas of black cherry and plum, some spice and sweet oak notes; deep, intense, concentrated black cherry and plum flavors, spice and pepper notes, tannin and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Deliciously intense Pinot that has tons of flavor. *Originally published in issue #27.*

425 cases made \$20 Score: 92

Willamette Valley Vineyards

Pinot Noir Oregon Whole Cluster 2004

Medium ruby purple color; bright cherry, spice and herbs on nose; bright cherry and spice flavors, some sweet oak, good structure and balance; lingering finish. A light and crisp style of Pinot that really works. Bright interesting flavors, great affinity for lighter foods. *Originally published in issue #33.*

6,500 cases made \$18 Score: 88

[PNR]

PINOT'S MASTER VINTNERS OF 2005

1.

Michael Browne

Kosta Browne Winery

Boy, am I glad that Michael Browne never became an architect. That was originally his plan when he moved from Washington state down to Sonoma County in 1987.

Fortunately for all of us who love great Pinot Noir, Michael found himself working in local Sonoma County restaurants to pay the bills. He got seriously interested in wines while working in these restaurants and he revised his career plan. Michael began his winemaking career working as an intern with Robert Rex at Deerfield Ranch Winery in the Sonoma Valley in 1997 and became co-winemaker there in 2000. At the same time, Michael's passion for Pinot Noir was growing and he soon teamed up with Dan Kosta, then wine director and head sommelier John Ash & Co. to launch Kosta Browne.

There's no question that they've been on a roll ever since. Michael's even branching out from their original Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast roots to source grapes from other great Pinot areas, the first of which is from the Santa Lucia Highlands. If I may say so, Michael definitely made the right career choice—his Pinots just get better and more interesting with each vintage.

2.

Lynn Penner-Ash

Penner-Ash Wine Cellars

Lynn Penner-Ash has a quiet passion about her when it comes to making Pinot Noir. When she talks to you about her wines,

she doesn't raise her voice or gesture wildly with her hands; but you can see the passion in her eyes. And her eyes speak volumes about her new Penner-Ash Pinot Noirs.

After 15 years first as winemaker and later president of Rex Hill Vineyards in the Willamette Valley, Lynn made the decision in 2002 to set out on her own. Both she and her husband Ron quit their jobs to focus full-time on Penner-Ash Wine Cellars, which they founded in 1998. A graduate of U.C.-Davis, Lynn worked for several California wineries before moving north to Oregon. She and Ron have secured fruit from some of the areas best vineyards, including the Bethel Heights, Goldschmidt, Seven Springs and Shea vineyards. They've also just completed a beautiful new winery and tasting room on Ribbon Ridge just outside of Newberg, with sweeping views of Mount Hood and the Pinot country surrounding them. All of this is the perfect setting to develop the Penner-Ash Pinots. They're subtle, deep, complex and delicious—and bode well for this next phase of Lynn's journey in wine.

3.

Richard Sanford

Alma Rosa

When Richard Sanford arrived in Santa Barbara County in 1969 and started a winery west of the town of Buellton, he was decades ahead of the rush of vintners who would eventually see what he saw in the area that is now the Santa Rita Hills.

It was with that vision and desire to make world-class Pinot Noir that Sanford & Benedict (later Sanford Winery) was born and a long string of terrific Pinot Noir and Chardonnay followed. Richard's commitment to making great wine runs alongside a broader commitment to preserving the environment. He thus began a quest to make everything at Sanford from his vineyard practices to the dream winery he would eventually build "green" and sustainable. Richard left Sanford Winery last year over differences in philosophy with his partners. For Richard, in the end, it was an opportunity to reinvent himself.

His new wine venture, Alma Rosa, is producing Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Gris, all in bottles finished with twist-off caps. His commitment to the environment is as strong as ever (with Alma Rosa, he is encouraging his customers to return the empty bottles to him so that they can be washed and reused). The first wines from the 2004 vintage are terrific and the visionary in Richard Sanford is back on track.

[PNR]

PINOT'S RISING STARS OF 2005

1.

Josh Bergstrom

Bergstrom Vineyards

Josh Bergstrom has been making the wine for his family's Bergstrom Vineyards since its first vintage in 1999. Bergstrom was founded in 1997 by Josh's parents, John and Karen Bergstrom, who moved to the Dundee Hills from Portland, found and purchased a 15-acre property that would become the Bergstrom Vineyard. Nearly 10 years later, Josh has not only earned considerable critical acclaim for his wines, especially his Pinots, but the family has expanded the estate vineyard holdings and built a new winery and tasting room. It sounds a bit cliché (and it probably is), but Josh is part of a new generation of young Oregon winemakers—a generation that is building on the lessons learned over the past three decades and making Oregon Pinot Noir better than ever.

2.

Bill Brosseau

Testarossa Vineyards

It's good that Bill Brosseau is an effective multi-tasker. In his position as winemaker at Testarossa Vineyards, he's ably filling some big shoes left behind by departed winemaker Ed Kurtzman and making nearly a dozen interesting Pinots from a wide stable of vineyards up and down the California coast. He also helps manage his family's Brosseau Vineyard, a terrific, up and coming vineyard for Pinot in the Gabilan Mountains next to Chalone Vineyard. He also makes and markets some nice small-lot Pinot and other wines from the Brosseau Vineyard

under his own label, Gabilan Estate. Bill's background includes a degree in viticulture and enology from U.C.-Davis, a stint as lab director at Pine Ridge Winery in Napa Valley and two years in the cellar at Chalone Vineyard before signing on as enologist at Testarossa in 2000. Bill believes in a broad understanding of all aspects of the wine business, a belief that's critical for a wine entrepreneur these days. I'm looking forward to watching (and tasting) the results of his growth and progress.

3.

Patrick Melley

Russian Hill Estate

If you ask Patrick Melley what he loves most about Pinot Noir—and tries hardest to achieve—he'd tell you it's the silky texture. The potential for achieving that texture is so high in Pinot and yet it eludes many winemakers. Patrick is a mostly self-taught winemaker, coming from the restaurant business to make Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot with his uncle, Russian Hill's co-owner Ed Gomez, in Benicia, Calif. When Ed and his wife, Ellen Mack, found the Russian Hill property, Patrick took on the challenge of making Pinot Noir. Working with mainly estate vineyards, he's achieved some seriously good results in a relatively short string of vintages. The more I taste his Russian Hill Pinots, the more I'm convinced that he's got the "texture thing" down and the more I look forward to each new vintage.

4.

Vanessa Wong

Peay Vineyards

Without question, Vanessa Wong has found a platform for her significant winemaking talents at Peay Vineyards—as evidenced by everything from her mineral, crisp Roussanne/Marsanne to her deep and complex Pinot Noir. Vanessa's journey to the Sonoma Coast hilltop that is Peay Vineyard has been full of a wealth of experience, beginning with work in wine retail and catering in her native San Francisco. She worked at several Napa Valley wineries during her studies at U.C.-Davis and upon graduating, she traveled extensively, working in Pauillac at Chateau Lafite-Rothschild and in Vosne-Romanee at Domaine Jean Gros before returning to California and eventually landing at Peter Michael Winery where she made wine from 1996 to 2000. Vanessa shares a common vision with Nick and Andy Peay for making wines that are vineyard-driven; her wines are proof of the validity of that vision.

[PNR]

THE 2006 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

2005 INDEX OF ALL WINES PUBLISHED

ALL WINES ARE PINOT NOIR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
A. P. Vin		
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004, \$45	94	33
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004, \$45	95	33
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2004, \$45	92	33
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2004, \$45	95	33
Abundance Vineyard		
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2001, \$22	91	35
Sonoma Coast Brick Hill Block 2001, \$18	90	35
Acacia Winery		
Carneros 2003, \$20	92	30
Adelaida		
Paso Robles HMR Estate 2002, \$25	90	28
Paso Robles SLO 2002, \$15	86	28
Alcina Cellars		
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2003, \$50	94	29
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2003, \$48	93	29
Archery Summit		
Willamette Valley Arcus Estate 2002, \$75	92	30
Willamette Valley Estate 2002, \$150	94	30
Willamette Valley Red Hills Estate 2002, \$75	92	30
Willamette Valley Premier Cuvee 2002, \$37	90	30
Arista Winery		
Ferrington Vineyard 2003, \$50	93	33
Russian River Valley Harper's Rest 2003, \$35	93	33
Russian River Valley Mononi Vineyard 2003, \$50	94	33
Russian River Valley Toboni Vineyard 2003, \$50	94	33
August West		
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2003, \$42	94	28
Babcock Winery & Vineyards		
Santa Rita Hills Grand Cuvee 2002, \$35	91	27
Bouchaine Vineyards		
Carneros Estate Vineyard 2003, \$35	92	34
Carneros 2003, \$25	91	34
Brogan Cellars		
Russian River Valley Lingenfelder Vineyard 2003, \$40	91	29
Russian River Valley Lone Redwood Ranch 2002, \$48	89	29
Russian River Valley 2003, \$45	90	29
Sonoma Coast Summa Vineyard 2002, \$75	93	29
Sonoma Coast Summa Vineyard Young Vine 2003, \$55	92	29
Burrell School Vineyards		
Santa Cruz Mountains Reserve 2002, \$34	90	33
Byington Vineyard & Winery		
Santa Cruz Mountains 2001, \$26	86	32
Santa Cruz Mountains 2002, \$30	87	32
Sonoma Mountain Van der Kamp Vineyard 2002, \$30	87	32
Calera Wine Company		
Mt. Harlan Jensen 2001, \$50	86	28
Mt. Harlan Reed 2001, \$45	85	28
Castle Vineyards & Winery		
Carneros 2001, \$35	85	32
Chateau St. Jean		
Sonoma County 2003, \$19	91	28
Chehalem		
Willamette Valley Corral Creek 2003, \$39	91	34

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Chehalem (continued)		
Willamette Valley Ridgecrest 2003, \$39	92	34
Willamette Valley Stoller Vineyard 2003, \$39	94	34
Willamette Valley 3 Vineyard 2003, \$25	93	34
Willamette Valley Reserve 2003, \$60	93	34
Clos Pepe Estate		
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2003, \$37	94	32
Collaboration		
Edna Valley Paragon Vineyard 2002, \$21	91	28
Copeland Creek Vineyards		
Sonoma Coast 2002, \$30	92	34
D'Argenzio Winery		
Russian River Valley 2002, \$32	88	29
David Bruce Winery		
Carneros Truchard Vineyard 2001, \$40	87	27
Russian River Valley Teac Mor Vineyard 2002, \$45	91	27
Russian River Valley 2002, \$40	86	27
Santa Cruz Mountains 2002, \$40	90	27
Santa Cruz Mountains 2001, \$35	88	27
Santa Lucia Highlands Tondre Grapefield 2001, \$40	88	27
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2001, \$45	91	27
Sonoma Coast 2002, \$27	87	27
De Loach Vineyards		
Russian River Valley 2002, \$18	90	33
Russian River Valley OFS 2002, \$29	91	33
Derbes Wines		
Russian River Valley Les Pinots 2002, \$40	89	28
Diamond Oaks		
Carneros 2002, \$22	85	28
Dierberg		
Santa Maria Valley Dierberg Vineyard 2002, \$33	91	27
Domaine Chandon		
Carneros 2002, \$29	92	27
Carneros Ramal Road Reserve 2002, \$45	93	27
Pinot Meunier Carneros 2002, \$29	91	27
Dutton Estate Winery		
Russian River Valley Thomas Road Vineyard 2002, \$40	88	27
Russian River Valley Jewell Block 2002, \$48	90	27
Dutton-Goldfield Winery		
Marin County Devil's Gulch Ranch 2002, \$48	90	28
Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2002, \$35	92	28
Russian River Valley Sanchietti Vineyard 2002, \$52	91	28
Sonoma Coast McDougall Vineyard 2002, \$48	92	28
Edna Valley Vineyard		
Edna Valley Paragon Vineyard 2003, \$16	92	30
Elk Cove Vineyards		
Willamette Valley La Boheme 2003, \$36	93	34
Willamette Valley Mount Richmond 2003, \$36	93	34
Willamette Valley Roosevelt 2003, \$48	91	34
Willamette Valley Windhill 2003, \$36	92	34
Willamette Valley 2003, \$24	91	34
Elkhorn Peak Cellars		
Napa Valley 2002, \$30	86	33
Esterlina Vineyards		
Anderson Valley 2001, \$30	87	27
Russian River Valley 2002, \$30	84	27
Etude		
Carneros 2002, \$40	91	27
Fetzer Vineyards		
Santa Maria Valley Reserve 2002, \$40	88	33
Sonoma County Barrel Select 2001, \$20	87	33
Five Rivers Winery		
Santa Barbara County 2004, \$10	88	35
Santa Barbara County 2003, \$10	86	33

THE 2006 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Fleur de California		
Carneros 2003, \$12	87	31
Flying Goat Cellars		
Santa Maria Valley Dierberg Vineyard 2002, \$32	92	27
Santa Rita Hills Rancho Santa Rosa 2002, \$34	90	27
Foley Estates Vineyard & Winery		
SRH Rancho Santa Rosa Barrel Select 2002, \$50	92	28
SRH Rancho Santa Rosa Block 4D Pommard 2002, \$45	91	28
SRH Rancho Santa Rosa Block 5C Clone 667 2002, \$45	87	28
Santa Rita Hills Rancho Santa Rosa 2002, \$38	87	28
Forest Ville		
Sonoma County 2003, \$15.99	89	28
Francis Tannahill		
Willamette Valley The Hermit 2003, \$35	93	33
Freeman Vineyards & Winery		
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$35	94	29
Sonoma Coast Akiko's Cuvee 2003, \$45	95	29
Frei Brothers		
Russian River Valley Reserve 2003, \$24	89	31
Gallo of Sonoma		
Sonoma Coast Reserve 2003, \$13	92	31
Gary Farrell		
Russian River Valley Allen Hillside Blocks 2002, \$50	87	28
Russian River Valley Rochioli-Allen Vineyards 2002, \$60	87	28
Goldeneye		
Anderson Valley 2002, \$52	93	31
Green Truck Cellars		
Napa Valley 2003, \$35	92	29
Greenwood Ridge Vineyards		
Anderson Valley 2002, \$25	85	27
Gypsy Dancer Estates		
Dundee Hills A&G Estate Vineyard 2003, \$60	89	31
Dundee Hills Emily's Reserve 2003, \$30	88	31
Chehalem Mountains Gary & Christine's Vyd. 2003, \$40	90	31
Hallcrest Vineyards		
Potter Valley Power House Vineyard 2003, \$25	86	33
Santa Cruz Mountains Belle Farms Vineyards` 2003, \$35	87	33
Santa Cruz Mountains Veranda Vineyard 2003, \$35	87	33
Halleck Vineyard		
Russian River Valley Three Sons Cuvee 2004, \$38	94	33
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$58	95	33
Hanzell Vineyards		
Sonoma Valley 2000, \$75	91	27
Harmonique		
Anderson Valley The Noble One 2002, \$48	89	32
Anderson Valley Delicace 2002, \$48	91	32
Hatcher Wineworks		
Willamette Valley 2003, \$35	92	33
Hawley		
Russian River Valley 2003, \$32	91	33
Hendry Winery		
Napa Valley Hendry Ranch 2002, \$30	91	29
Hunterdon (Mayro-Murdick Wines)		
Santa Lucia Highlands 2004, \$15	91	35
Hunter Hill Vineyard & Winery		
Sonoma Coast Hellenenthal Vineyard 2003, \$30	89	30
Inman Family Wines		
Russian River Valley Olivet Grange Vineyard 2003, \$40	91	35
J. Jacaman Wines		
Russian River Valley 2002, \$35	86	28
J. Wilkes		
Napa Valley Vall-Foss Vineyard Block T6 2003, \$27	88	29
Santa Barbara County Bien Nacido Block Q 2002, \$50	91	29

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
J. Wilkes (continued)		
Santa Barbara County Solomon Hills Block 3 2003, \$37	90	29
Jekel		
Monterey County 2001, \$15.99	84	33
John Tyler		
Russian River Valley Bacigalupi Vineyard 2002, \$42	91	35
Kazmer & Blaise		
Carneros 2002, \$36	90	30
Keegan Cellars		
Russian River Valley E Block 2002, \$48	92	28
Russian River Valley 2002, \$36	92	28
Kendall-Jackson		
Arroyo Seco Seco Highlands Estates 2003, \$30	87	32
California Vintner's Reserve 2003, \$14	86	32
Monterey County Grand Reserve 2002, \$30	88	32
King Estate		
Oregon Domaine 2002, \$50	93	35
Oregon Domaine 2001, \$50	90	28
Oregon 2003, \$25	92	35
Oregon 2002, \$24	92	30
Kosta Browne		
Russian River Valley 2003, \$38	94	29
Santa Lucia Highlands 2003, \$38	94	29
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$28	96	29
Laetitia Vineyard & Winery		
Arroyo Grande Valley 2004, \$25	93	35
Arroyo Grande Valley Reserve 2003, \$40	92	35
Arroyo Grande Valley La Colline 2003, \$60	91	35
Arroyo Grande Valley Les Galets 2003, \$60	90	35
Landmark Vineyards		
Sonoma Coast Kastania 2003, \$45	94	34
Sonoma Coast Kastania 2002, \$45	93	31
Sonoma County Grand Detour 2003, \$27	93	34
Sonoma County Grand Detour 2002, \$25	93	31
Laurier Vineyards		
Carneros 2003, \$14.99	89	28
Lincourt (Foley Estates)		
Santa Barbara County 2002, \$22	89	28
Santa Maria Valley Dierberg Vineyard 2002, \$30	90	28
Loring Wine Company		
California Llama Farm 2004, \$48	95	34
California The Llama 2003, \$46	91	27
Chalone Brosseau Vineyard 2004, \$48	93	34
Chalone Brosseau Vineyard 2003, \$46	92	27
Chalone Naylor Dry Hole 2004, \$48	94	34
Chalone Naylor Dry Hole 2003, \$46	93	27
Green Valley Keefer Ranch 2004, \$48	96	34
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2004, \$48	95	34
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$46	94	27
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2004, \$48	96	34
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2003, \$46	94	27
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2004, \$48	94	34
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2003, \$46	91	27
Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2004, \$48	97	34
Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2003, \$46	96	27
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2004, \$48	95	34
Santa Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2003, \$46	94	27
Sonoma Coast Durell Vineyard 2004, \$48	94	34
Lost Canyon Winery		
Carneros Las Brisas Vineyard 2003, \$38	90	32
Russian River Valley Morelli Lane Vineyard 2003, \$38	92	32
Russian River Valley Saralee's Vineyard 2003, \$38	91	32
Lucia (Pisoni Vineyards & Winery)		
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2002, \$37	93	27

THE 2006 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Lynmar Winery		
Russian River Valley Quail Hill Vineyard 2002, \$30	91	28
Russian River Valley Quail Cuvee 2002, \$40	92	28
MacMurray Ranch		
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$20	91	31
MacPhail Family Wines		
Anderson Valley Toulouse Vineyard 2003, \$35	92	35
Russian River Valley 2003, \$40	93	35
Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2003, \$40	92	35
MacRostie Winery		
Carneros 2003, \$26	91	35
Carneros 2002, \$24	93	28
Marimar Estate		
Russian River Valley Cristina 2002, \$47	91	30
Russian River Valley Earthquake Block 2003, \$42	91	35
Martin Alfaro Winery		
Santa Cruz Mountains Schultze Family Vyd. 2003, \$28	90	35
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$39	91	35
Mayro-Murdick Wines		
Carneros 2003, \$35	92	35
Merry Edwards		
Russian River Valley Olivet Lane Vineyard 2003, \$54	94	33
Russian River Valley Windsor Gardens 2003, \$57	95	33
Russian River Valley Klopp Ranch 2002, \$48	94	28
Russian River Valley 2002, \$32	94	28
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$29	92	33
Sonoma Coast Meredith Estate 2002, \$48	95	28
Miller Wine Works		
Sonoma Coast Hellenthal Vineyard 2002, \$33	91	29
Mirassou		
California 2004, \$11	91	31
Monterey County 2003, \$11	90	31
Morgan Winery		
Santa Lucia Highlands Double L Vineyard 2003, \$50	94	33
Santa Lucia Highlands Double L Vineyard 2002, \$45	94	28
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$45	92	33
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2002, \$38	93	28
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2003, \$45	93	33
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2002, \$38	93	28
Moshin Vineyards		
Russian River Valley Lot 4 Selection 2002, \$30	90	29
Russian River Valley Clone 115 2002, \$30	92	29
Murphy-Goode		
Russian River Valley 2002, \$30	86	27
Orsi Papale Estate Wines		
Russian River Valley 2001, \$30	88	28
Ortman Family Vineyards		
Santa Barbara County 2002, \$34	88	27
Santa Rita Hills Fiddlestix Vineyard 2003, \$40	91	34
Santa Rita Hills 2003, \$30	90	34
Willamette Valley 2003, \$30	90	34
Papapietro Perry Winery		
Russian River Valley Leras Family Vineyard 2003, \$45	93	32
Russian River Valley Pommard Clones 2003, \$58	94	32
Russian River Valley 2003, \$38	93	32
Russian River Valley 2002, \$38	90	29
Sonoma Coast Peters Vineyard 2003, \$45	93	32
Sonoma Coast Peters Vineyard 2002, \$42	93	29
Paradise Ridge		
Russian River Valley 2002, \$29	82	27
Sonoma County Elizabeth & Henry's Vineyard 2002, \$29	82	27
Patton Valley Vineyard		
Willamette Valley 2002, \$30	91	29
Willamette Valley Lorna-Marie Cuvee 2002, \$60	92	29

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Patz & Hall		
Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2003, \$50	95	30
Sonoma Coast Burnside Vineyard 2003, \$60	92	30
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$33	94	30
Peay Vineyards		
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$40	94	30
Pey-Marin Vineyards		
Marin County Trois Filles 2003, \$33	93	34
Pisoni Vineyards & Winery		
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2002, \$60	94	27
Radio-Coteau		
Anderson Valley Savoy 2003, \$45	95	27
Sonoma Coast Hellenthal 2003, \$40	95	27
Sonoma Coast Marsh 2003, \$40	94	27
Sonoma Coast La Neblina 2003, \$36	93	27
Raye's Hill Vineyards & Winery		
Anderson Valley 2001, \$18	93	29
Anderson Valley 2002, \$22	90	29
Roar Wines		
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$44	95	34
Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard 2003, \$48	94	34
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2003, \$44	95	30
Santa Lucia Highlands 2003, \$31	94	30
Robert Stemmler		
Carneros Ferguson Block 2002, \$40	92	31
Carneros Ferguson Block 2001, \$32	89	28
Carneros 2002, \$32	90	31
Carneros 2001, \$32	88	28
Russian River Valley Nugent Vineyard 2002, \$32	89	28
Roessler Cellars		
Anderson Valley Savoy Vineyard 2003, \$42	95	34
Anderson Valley Blue Jay 2003, \$30	93	29
Carneros Sangiacomo 2003, \$36	94	34
Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2003, \$36	95	29
Sonoma Coast La Brisa 2003, \$28	93	34
Row Eleven		
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
Russian Hill Estate		
Russian River Valley Estate Vineyard 2003, \$32	92	35
Russian River Valley Estate Vineyard 2002, \$33	91	28
Russian River Valley Leras Vineyard 2003, \$38	92	35
Russian River Valley Tara Vineyard 2003, \$42	93	35
Russian River Valley Tara Vineyard 2002, \$40	93	28
Russian River Valley 2002, \$24	90	28
Sonoma Coast Meredith Vineyard 2003, \$40	93	35
Sonoma Coast Meredith Vineyard 2002, \$40	92	28
Saintsbury		
Carneros Brown Ranch 2002, \$75	93	33
Carneros Reserve 2002, \$50	92	33
Sarah's Vineyard		
Santa Clara Valley Estate Reserve 2002, \$30	86	35
Savannah Chanelle Vineyards		
Russian River Valley 2003, \$26	91	32
Santa Cruz Mountains 2002, \$26	88	32
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2002, \$30	89	32
Sonoma Coast Armagh Vineyard 2002, \$30	91	32
Schug Carneros Estate Winery		
Carneros Heritage Reserve 2002, \$30	91	28
Carneros 2003, \$20	91	30
Carneros 2002, \$20	88	28
Sea Smoke Cellars		
Santa Rita Hills Botella 2003, \$30	94	35
Santa Rita Hills Botella 2002, \$25	92	27

THE 2006 PINOT PASSION AWARDS

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Sea Smoke Cellars (continued)		
Santa Rita Hills Southing 2003, \$50	93	35
Santa Rita Hills Southing 2002, \$45	94	27
Santa Rita Hills Ten 2003, \$70	93	35
Santa Rita Hills Ten 2002, \$65	93	27
Sebastiani Vineyards		
Sonoma Coast 2003, \$15	94	31
Sebastopol Vineyards (Dutton Estate Winery)		
Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch 2001, \$20	86	27
Shea Wine Cellars		
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Block 23 2003, \$48	95	29
Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Block 32 2003, \$48	95	29
Willamette Valley Shea Vyd. Homer Cuvee 2003, \$65	94	29
Signorello Vineyards		
Carneros Las Amigas Vineyard 2002, \$32	91	28
Sineann		
Columbia Gorge Phelps Creek Vineyard 2003, \$42	91	30
Willamette Valley Covey Ridge Vineyard 2003, \$42	91	30
Willamette Valley Resonance Vineyard 2003, \$42	93	30
Sokol Blosser Winery		
Willamette Valley Dundee Hills 2002, \$26	91	35
Sonnet		
Santa Lucia Highlands Tondre Grapefield 2003, \$40	92	35
York Mountain Kruse Vineyard 2003, \$40	94	29
Sunce Winery		
Russian River Valley Piner Ranch Reserve 2002, \$36	84	29
Russian River Valley Piner Ranch Vineyard 2001, \$30	85	29
Russian River Valley Rodella Vineyard 2002, \$34	82	29
Russian River Valley Rodella Vineyard 2003, \$34	85	29
Sonoma County Karah's Hillside Vineyard 2000, \$32	81	29
Talisman		
Sonoma Coast Thorn Vineyard 2001, \$40	92	27
Tantara Winery		
Chalone Brosseau Vineyard 2003, \$50	92	33
TAZ Vineyards		
Santa Barbara County 2002, \$25	87	27
Santa Rita Hills Fiddlestix Vineyard 2002, \$35	91	28
Testarossa Vineyards		
Central Coast Palazzio 2003, \$32	92	28
Russian River Valley Fritschen Vineyard 2003, \$54	92	31
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$54	93	31
Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2003, \$54	94	31
Santa Lucia Highlands Sleepy Hollow Vineyard 2003, \$54	93	31
Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard Elder Series 2003, \$54	93	31
The Donum Estate		
Carneros 2002, \$60	93	31
Three Saints (Dierberg)		
Santa Maria Valley 2002, \$20	92	27
Tin House		
Edna Valley 2002, \$36	93	30
Toad Hall		
Carneros Lavender Hill Vineyard 2002, \$22	88	29
Carneros Lavender Hill Vineyard 2003, \$25	90	29
Carneros Lavender Hill Vineyard Dijon Clones 2003, \$40	89	29
Truchard Vineyards		
Carneros 2001, \$28	88	33
Turning Leaf		
Sonoma County Sonoma Reserve 2003, \$10	89	31
Vergari Wines		
Sonoma Coast DuNah Vineyard 2004, \$39	93	34
Sonoma Mountain Van der Kamp Vineyard 2004, \$39	92	34
Waltzing Bear		
Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2003, \$45	91	35
Santa Maria Valley Rancho Ontiveros 2003, \$42	93	35

WINERY WINE / PRICE	SCORE	ISSUE NO.
Waltzing Bear(continued)		
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
Waterstone Winery		
Carneros 2002, \$18	89	30
White Rose Wines		
Willamette Valley Dundee Hills 2002, \$65	91	30
Whitehaven		
Marlborough 2003, \$30	91	31
Willamette Valley Vineyards		
Oregon Whole Cluster 2004, \$18	88	33
Willamette Valley Freedom Hill Vineyard 2000, \$45	89	33
Willamette Valley Hoodview Vineyard 2000, \$45	92	33
Willamette Valley 2002, \$28	90	31
Williams & Selyem		
Anderson Valley Ferrington Vineyard 2002, \$59	92	28
Russian River Valley Flax Vineyard 2002, \$49	89	28
San Benito County Vista Verde Vineyard 2002, \$49	89	28
Sonoma Coast Coastlands Vineyard 2002, \$59	93	28
Windward Vineyard		
Paso Robles Monopole 2002, \$30	93	33
Paso Robles Barrel Select Gold Label 2002, \$50	93	33
Windy Oaks Estate		
Santa Cruz Mountains Proprietors Reserve 2001, \$36	91	30
Woodenhead		
Anderson Valley Wiley Vineyard 2002, \$42	91	29
Humboldt County Elk Prairie Vineyard 2002, \$50	93	29
Humboldt County 2002, \$28	89	29
Russian River Valley Buena Tierra Vineyard 2002, \$46	85	29
Russian River Valley 2002, \$32	89	29

[PNR]

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PINOTREPORT

For People Passionate About Western Pinot Noir

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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

96-100	SUPERIOR; it doesn't get better.
90-95	OUTSTANDING; approaching the best
86-89	ABOVE AVERAGE; a 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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