

**If You Drink  
No Noir  
You Pinot Noir**

# PinotFile

The First Wine Newsletter Devoted to Pinotaficionados

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## Pinot Days - Fast and Furious II

Imagine walking through a door into the massive Fort Mason Festival Pavilion and everywhere you look there is Pinot. 150 producers, over 500 Pinot Noirs to sample and only 5 hours to get the job done. Hopefully you have done the training to survive the onslaught. I call it "Fast and Furious II" and although it is only the second Pinot Days event, the buzz has spread throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. A couple thousand pinotaficionados grab a crystal glass, shuck their coats, and descend on their favorite or newly discovered producers to swirl, sip and spit at a furious pace. Masterfully organized by Steven and Lisa Rigisch among others, this celebration of Pinot Noir on June 25th, 2006 is heaven for pinotgeeks.

Sure, walk-around tastings are not the best format for technically or seriously tasting wine, but lasting impressions can be fostered by a few sips and some quality time with the producers who proudly pour their juice. There is no pretentiousness here and the camaraderie is stimulating. I personally was able to meet up with many members of 'The Crew'. I especially enjoyed tasting with three dedicated pinotphiles from Connecticut who were officially anointed by the Prince as "The Connecticut Yankees in the Prince's Court."

The next Pinot Days in San Francisco will be June 30th, 2007.

Pinot Days is also on the road with Pinot Days Seattle in November, 2006, and Pinot Days New York in April, 2007.

Keep informed at [www.pinotdays.com](http://www.pinotdays.com) or by phoning the Bay Area Wine Project at 415-883-7299.





There were 30 artisan food purveyors at the event but honestly I didn't have enough time to check them out. Crushpad had a large exhibit and I spent time talking with owner Michael Brill. Crushpad has a state-of-the-art winemaking facility in San Francisco where they will assist budding winemakers in crafting their unique wine in lot sizes as small as a single barrel (25 cases). Michael told me that many people put groups of six or eight people together to produce a barrel of wine with their own label. Winecrafters can be involved as much or as little as they like traveling to the winery to supervise or using Crushnet, their virtual winery system to monitor every step of the winemaking process using the web. Grapes are sourced from proven high-scoring vineyards and noted winemakers are on site to make the small lot wines. Professional and commercial winemakers are also welcome (Dain Wines was the first commercial label for Crushpad - see notes that follow). I am really tempted to make my own Pinot now. [www.crushpad.com](http://www.crushpad.com)



The boys from Graperadio (Jay Selman, Brian Clark and Eric Anderson) were on hand to support the event and interview many attendees. They were pouring some choice Pinot for guests. Look for future weekly podcasts that originated from Pinot Days at [www.graperadio.com](http://www.graperadio.com). Highly recommended for any wine lover.

A silent auction of collectable bottles, many in large format, were offered to support three charities who are fighting hunger and helping the less fortunate. Bidding was fast and furious and I came away empty-handed.



I can't say enough about the generosity of Michael Browne and Dan Kosta of Kosta Browne Wines. They sell all of their small production to a mailing list and a select few restaurants. Their wines are highly coveted and they don't need more customers. Yet, here they were at Pinot Days pouring their 2004 Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley Pinot Noirs and barrel samples of their four vineyard-designate 2005 Pinot Noirs. In addition, they contributed a magnum of 2004 Kosta Browne Kanzler Vineyard Pinot Noir (I believe it went for well over \$350) and two 750 ml bottles of Kosta Browne Pinot Noir to the auction. Their luscious fruit-driven Pinot Noirs are clearly popular - their booth was packed five deep and they had poured all of their wine by the half-way point of the event. They deserve all of the success that has come their way.



There were many other producers who make very small quantities of Pinot Noir who also poured their wines freely and contributed to the auction. These vintners are exactly the ones that pinotphiles should support. It is a shame that certain elite producers of Pinot Noir, who only sell to a full waiting list cannot support this kind of event (think Rochioli, Kistler, Marcassin, Peter Michael), for it would benefit all Pinot Noir winegrowers and enthusiasts.

In the following pages I have listed the producers who poured at Pinot Days with some pertinent comments about those with whom I was able to spend time with or know well. I have highlighted in bold specific Pinot Noirs that I tasted that stood out to me at this Pinot pageant. It is senseless to go into depth with detailed tasting notes as the numerous distractions (smells, noise, lighting, and laughter) make such an effort futile. This is really a celebration of Pinot Noir and sometimes you just need to enjoy what is in your glass and not dissect the wine. The fact is, the quality of Pinot Noir here was high everywhere you went and it was really only a matter of looking for preferred styles (kind of like choosing between a beautiful blonde and a gorgeous redhead). I hope you find this reference useful.



Many of these producers have been profiled or their wines previously reviewed in the *PinotFile*. At the end of my comments, PF indicates you can source further information by using the search function at the *PinotFile* website, [princeofpinot.com](http://princeofpinot.com).

**A.P Vin** Owner and winemaker Andrew P. Vingiello. Small production, similar to Loring Wine Co in style. Garys' Vineyard, Rosella's Vineyard, Keefer Ranch Pinot Noirs. [www.apvin.com](http://www.apvin.com).

**Alfaro Family Vineyard** Martin Alfaro label is for purchased grapes, Alfaro Family Vineyards is the estate project from the Santa Cruz Mountains. **2004 Alfaro Family Vineyards Schultze Vineyard Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir, 2004 Alfaro Family Vineyards Estate Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir** (\$33). Owner Richard Alfaro, winemaker Joe Martin. [www.alfarowine.com](http://www.alfarowine.com).

**Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards** Thekia and Richard Sanford's new project after departing Sanford Winery & Vineyards. Tasting room in Santa Rita Hills. **2004 Alma Rosa La Encantada Vineyard Santa Rita Hills Pinot Noir** (\$45). [www.almarosawinery.com](http://www.almarosawinery.com). PF

**Ampelos Cellars** Pinot Noirs from estate and purchased Santa Rita Hills fruit. Peter Work is the owner and winemaker. [www.ampeloscellars.com](http://www.ampeloscellars.com).

**Ancien Wines** A very dependable label from noted winemaker, Ken Bernards. One of my favs. [www.ancienwines.com](http://www.ancienwines.com). PF

**Anne Amie Vineyards** (Oregon) The wines are fine but the labels must go (old-fashioned with tiny print and impossible to read if you are over 50). [www.anneamie.com](http://www.anneamie.com). PF

**Arcadian Winery** Owner and winemaker Joe Davis has his own Cali-Burg style. His wines are made with no destemming, significant new oak, and are a bit austere initially, but blossom beautifully with a little aging. He was pouring his 2000, 2001 and 2002 vintages. **2002 Arcadian Winery Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir, 2000 Arcadian Winery Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir**. [www.arcadianwinery.com](http://www.arcadianwinery.com). PF



**Arista Winery** A new winery with a beautiful tasting room on Westside Road in the Russian River Valley. The Pinot Noirs are in a fruit-driven, ripe style with significant oak and have been well-received by the press. [www.aristawinery.com](http://www.aristawinery.com). PF

**Aubin Cellars** A very small producer of reasonably priced Pinot Noir ('Verve') from the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast. Jerome Aubin is the owner and Loren Tayerie the winemaker. [www.aubincellars.com](http://www.aubincellars.com). PF

**August West** A collaboration between winemaker Ed Kurtzman (Fort Ross, Freeman, previously Testerosa), Gary Francioni (Garys' Vineyard) and Howard Graham (Graham Family Vineyard). [www.augustwestwine.com](http://www.augustwestwine.com). PF

**Auteur** Boutique producer of Pinot Noir from both Oregon (including Shea Vineyard) and Sonoma Coast. Owner and winemaker is Kenneth Juhasz (also winemaker at Donum Estate). [www.auteurwines.com](http://www.auteurwines.com).

**Baileyana Winery** San Luis Obispo producer noted for it's Firepeak Vineyard in Edna Valley. Wine-maker is Frenchman Roguenant (also of Alma Rosa). [www.baileyana.com](http://www.baileyana.com).

**Beauregard Vineyards** New Pinot Noir producer with extensive vineyard acreage in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Ryan Beauregard is the owner and winemaker. [www.beauregardvineyards.com](http://www.beauregardvineyards.com). PF

**Bernardus Vineyards and Winery** An established Pinot Noir producer with Pinot Noirs from Rosella's Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands, Bien Nacido Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley, and an estate vineyard in Carmel Valley. Owner Ben Pon, winemaker Dean DeKorth. [www.bernardus.com](http://www.bernardus.com)

**Bink Wines** A tiny boutique operation from Benicia, California who sources grapes from the Weir Vineyard in the Yorkville Highlands, Mendocino County. Deborah Schatzlein is the winemaker and co-owner with Cindy Paulson. [Www.binkwines.com](http://www.binkwines.com).



BINK WINES

**Bouchaine Vineyards** A long-time producer of Carneros Pinot Noirs. Michael Richmond is the winemaker. [Www.bouchaine.com](http://www.bouchaine.com).

**Brogan Cellars** Margaret Wierenga (daughter of Burt Williams of Williams Selyem) bottles terrific big styled age-worthy Pinot Noirs from the Russian River Valley, Sonoma Coast and Anderson Valley (her father's vineyard). One of my favs. **2004 Brogan Cellars Helio Doro Block Buena Terra Vineyard Russian River Valley Pinot Noir** (\$75). [Www.brogancellars.com](http://www.brogancellars.com). PF

**Burrell School Vineyards** A very unique tasting room in an old school house and multiple vintage tractors scattered among hillside vineyards. The Pinots here are recommended, but winemaker David Moulton does well with several other mountain varietals including Cabernet Franc. **2003 Burrell School Estate Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir** (\$42), **21003 Burrell School Veranda Vineyard Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir** (\$38). [Www.burrellschool.com](http://www.burrellschool.com). PF



**Byron Vineyard & Winery** New corporate ownership (Legacy Estates Group) but commitment to small production, high-quality Pinot Noir. Winemaker is Jonathan Nagy. [Www.byronwines.com](http://www.byronwines.com). PF

**Calera Wine Company** A beloved Pinot legend and one of the pioneers of Pinot Noir in California. Josh Jensen is at the top of his game and his wines, especially since 1999, have been spot on. You cannot call yourself a pinotphile unless you have several bottles of his wines in your cellar. The Pinots will age beautifully.



**2002 Calera Wine Company Mt. Harlan Jensen Vineyard Pinot Noir** (\$53). [Www.calerawine.com](http://www.calerawine.com). PF

**Cambria Winery & Vineyard** Santa Maria Valley producer. Winemaker is Denise Shurtleff. Wines are reasonably priced. [Www.cambriawines.com](http://www.cambriawines.com).

**Carneros Creek Winery** Founded by Francis Mahoney in 1972, this winery was the source for many important clonal trials and the winery became quite successful with production of 30,000 cases by 1998. Mahoney left in 2001 to farm and relax, but Carneros Creek under the ownership of Bill Hambrecht became a shambles with production dropping to 9,000 cases. Carneros Creek was sold in 2004 to Briar Cliff Wine Group. Winemaker is Ken Foster. [Www.briarcliffswines.com](http://www.briarcliffswines.com).

**Carrefour Vineyards** Carneros Pinot Noirs from owners Greg and Marilyn Nitz and winemaker Kelly Delanni. [Www.carrefourvineyards.com](http://www.carrefourvineyards.com).

**Castalia** A string of good, if not exceptional, Pinot Noirs from Terry Bering who has been a long-time cellar manager at Rochioli and sources grapes from the Rochioli Vineyard. This Pinot Noir is very similar in style to the single-vineyard releases from Rochioli Vineyard. [Www.castaliawines.com](http://www.castaliawines.com). PF

**Castle Winery** Produces an inexpensive Los Carneros Pinot Noir (\$18). Winemaker is Vic McWilliams. [Www.castlevineyards.com](http://www.castlevineyards.com).

**Chasseur Wines** William Hunter crafts superb Pinot Noirs out of a Sebastopol warehouse (good Chardonnays also). He sources grapes from the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast. **2004 Chasseur Wines 'Joyce' Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir** (\$55). [Www.chasseurwines.com](http://www.chasseurwines.com).

**Clary Ranch Wines** Paul Clary has turned from grape grower to winemaker with considerable success. He farms a 15 acre vineyard at the headwaters to Chileno Creek, about 11 miles from Tomales Bay. **2004 Clary Ranch Wines Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir** (150 cases, \$50). [Www.claryranch.com](http://www.claryranch.com).

**Clos Saron** I really like this producer, a small family-owned (Gideon and Saron Bienstock) winery and vineyard in Oregon House, California. (note: this is not in Oregon as many who approached the booth at Pinot Days surmised, but is located in the Sierra Foothills appellation of California). Strictly organic and biodynamic farming is employed on the estate Pinot Noir vineyard (2.2 acres, multiple clones). The Pinot Noirs are very distinctive and terroir-driven. Gideon also farms several acres of leased vineyards in the vicinity and makes several cuvees with other varietals including Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot, Mourvedre, Viognier, Chardonnay, and Sauvignon Blanc. **2004 Clos Saron Home Vineyard Sierra Foothills Pinot Noir** (\$45), **2005 Clos Saron Home Vineyard Sierra Foothills Pinot Noir** (barrel sample), [www.clossaron.com](http://www.clossaron.com). PF

**Copain Wine Cellars** The 2004 Pinot Noir Anderson Valley (Cerise, Hein, Kiser Vineyards) releases from winemakers Wells Guthrie and Kevin McQuown are quite good. Perhaps known more for his Rhone training and Rhone wines, Guthrie has been involved behind the scenes in many excellent Pinot Noir programs (ie Roessler). [Www.copainwines.com](http://www.copainwines.com).

**Copeland Creek** Don Baumhefner makes one Pinot Noir from the Sonoma Coast Copeland Creek Vineyard he planted and farms. His estate Pinot Noir is lower in alcohol than many California competitors (13.6%) and the style here is one of finesse and easy drinkability. **2003 Copeland Creek Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir** (\$30). [Www.copelandcreekvineyards.com](http://www.copelandcreekvineyards.com). PF

**Costa de Oro Winery** A collaboration between the Burk and Espinola families who are transforming their joint venture strawberry stand in Santa Maria into a tasting room and gourmet market. [Www.costadeorowineryh.com](http://www.costadeorowineryh.com).

**Dain Wines** David Dane Smith commutes from his home in Missouri to make his Pinot Noirs at Crushpad in San Francisco with consulting winemaker Scott Shapley. **2004 Dain Wines American Beauty Amber Ridge Russian River Valley Pinot Noir** (\$42), **2004 Dain Wines Savage Juliet Hein Vineyard Anderson Valley Pinot Noir** (\$42). [Www.dainwines.com](http://www.dainwines.com). PF

**Davis Bynum Winery** An historic Westside Road winery. Gary Farrell made many wines here in the past; the current winemaker is Steven Canter. [Www.davisbynum.com](http://www.davisbynum.com)

**Davis Family Vineyards** Year in and year out, a reliably excellent producer of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir. One of my favs. Guy Davis hand farms his own estate vineyard. His winery and tasting room is in Healdsburg close to the town square. **2004 Davis Family Vineyards Russian River Valley Pinot Noir** (\$38). PF

**DeLoach Vineyards** New owners, Boisset America, promise to revitalize this downtrodden winery with the help of talented winemaker Greg LaFollette. [Www.deloachvineyards.com](http://www.deloachvineyards.com).

**Derbes Wines** Talented and experienced French winemaker, Cecile Derbes, crafts a Russian River Pinot Noir and a unique Les Pinots Russian River bottling (Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier) in a very French style. I have enjoyed both wines. [Www.derbeswines.com](http://www.derbeswines.com). PF



**Domaine Alfred** Unfortunately, talented winemaker Mike Sinor has left to strike out on his own. The reserve Califa Pinot Noir from Chamisal Vineyard is the star here. Owner Terry Speizer will carry on admirably I am sure with a new winemaker. (Slated to be at Pinot Days but table was empty). [Www.domainealfred.com](http://www.domainealfred.com). PF

**Donum Estate** For a full story of this new Pinot Noir project, see next week's *PinotFile*. I visited prior to Pinot Days and I am very enthused about this newer label. Winegrower is Anne Moller-Rocke and winemaker is Kenneth Juhasz (Ken Bernards consults). **2003 Donum Estate Carneros Pinot Noir** (\$60). [Www.thedonumestate.com](http://www.thedonumestate.com). PF (Issue 42).



**Dutton Estate Winery** The Dutton family farms a very large number of prime vineyards in the Russian River Valley and Green Valley to draw upon for their own label. Winemaker is Mat Gustafson. [www.duttonestate.com](http://www.duttonestate.com).

**Dutton-Goldfield Winery** A partnership between Steve Dutton and Dan Goldfield. The Devil's Gulch Vineyard bottling has been my favorite year in and year out. They have a new tasting room in Santa Rosa. **2004 Dutton-Goldfield McDougall Vineyard Russian River Valley Pinot Noir**. [www.duttongoldfield.com](http://www.duttongoldfield.com). PF

**Elkhorn Peak Cellars** Long-time grape growers in Napa Valley, Ken Nerlove, Greg Gahagan and John Kryzanowski produce an estate Pinot Noir under the direction of winemaker Kent Rasmussen. [www.elkhornpeak.com](http://www.elkhornpeak.com).

**Eno Wines** Owner and winemaker is Sasha Verhage. A boutique producer who sources grapes from several appellations. A label to watch. Style is similar to Kosta Browne. **2004 Eno "The Gifted One" Fairview Road Ranch Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir** (\$35). [www.enowines.com](http://www.enowines.com).

**Eola Hills**, Amity, Oregon (Solena Cellars, Cathy Wines, Bighorn Cellars)

**Eric Kent Cellars** I spent an afternoon prior to Pinot Days in the cellar tasting with owner and winemaker Kent Humphrey. Although he has only released two vintages of Pinot Noir from Russian River's Stiling ('styling') Vineyard, I can tell he is a cerebral winemaker with a promising future. He just seems to "get it." His Chardonnays (made in both a Chablis and buttery Cali style) are also excellent. The bottles are truly "a work of art." [www.erickentwines.com](http://www.erickentwines.com). **2005 Eric Kent Cellars Stiling Vineyard Russian River Valley Pinot Noir** (barrel sample). PF



**Esquin Imports, Inc.** An importer of fine Burgundy including Domaine Heresztyn, Domaine Phillippe Charlopin, Prince F. De Merode, and Jean Tardy. Located in San Anselmo, CA. [www.wineimports.net](http://www.wineimports.net).

**Esterlina Winery** Eric Sterling MD crafts excellent Rieslings and Pinot Noir from a hilltop winery in Philo, Mendocino County. The Sterling family own Pinot Noir vineyards in the Anderson Valley (estate) and Russian River Valley. [www.esterlinavineyards.com](http://www.esterlinavineyards.com). PF

**Failla Winery** Ehren Jordan of Turley fame crafts superb Pinot Noirs from the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast. [www.faillawines.com](http://www.faillawines.com).

**Fiddlehead Cellars** Kathy Joseph calls herself the "head fiddler" and her Pinot Noirs make sweet music. Her Fiddlestix Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills is one of California's top Pinot Noir vineyards. She also makes a Pinot Noir from the Willamette Valley. [www.fiddleheadcellars.com](http://www.fiddleheadcellars.com). PF

**Flying Goat Cellars** Owner and winemaker is Norman Yost who has been making wine for twenty years and was the previous winemaker at Foley Estate in the Santa Rita Hills. **2004 Flying Goat Cellars Rio Vista Vineyard Dijon Clone Santa Rita hills Pinot Noir** (\$42). [www.flyinggoatcellars.com](http://www.flyinggoatcellars.com). PF



**Fort Ross Vineyard & Winery** With a meticulously farmed vineyard in the true Sonoma Coast and talented winemakers Fred Scherrer and Ed Kurtzman, it is not surprising that these Pinot Noirs are first-rate. [www.fortrossvineyard.com](http://www.fortrossvineyard.com). PF

**Freeman** Ken & Akiko Freeman work with Ed Kurtzman in their winery caves in Sebastopol to produce stellar Pinot Noirs. I like the style here - elegance over power. **2004 Freeman Keefer Ranch Green Valley Pinot Noir** (\$45), **2004 Freeman Akiko's Cuvee Pinot Noir** (the best barrels by Akiko's palate, \$48). [www.freemanwinery.com](http://www.freemanwinery.com). PF

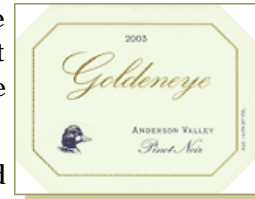




**george wine company** George Levkoff does it all for this eponymous label including hand delivering his wine to customers. George is a wine and food lover and his passion shows in his very elegant-styled Pinot Noirs which are soft as silk. He was one of the few producers pouring from magnum at Pinot Days and was holding a drawing for a free magnum of Pinot. One of my favs. **2004 george Nuptial Vineyard Russian River Valley Pinot Noir** (\$50). [www.georgewines.com](http://www.georgewines.com). PF

**Gloria Ferrer Vineyards and Caves** Nobody in California makes better sparkling wine at a reasonable price. The still Pinot Noirs have been promising. Winemaker is Bob Iantosca. [www.gloriaferrer.com](http://www.gloriaferrer.com).

**Goldeneye Winery** The largest and most prominent producer of Pinot Noir in the Anderson Valley. Owned by Duckhorn Wine Co., there is a serious commitment here to vineyard development and ultra-premium Pinot Noir. So far, they are right on track. Winemaker is Zach Rasmussen. [www.goldeneyewinery.com](http://www.goldeneyewinery.com). PF



**Golden's Wines** Barry Golden crafts Pinot Noir from the Santa Maria Valley and Santa Rita Hills. I haven't yet got acquainted. [www.goldenswines.com](http://www.goldenswines.com).

**Gundlach Bundschu Winery** Jim and Jeff Bundschu definitely wine a prize for the most humorous ads for their wines. The historic Rhinefarm Vineyard in the Sonoma Valley provides the grapes for their Pinot Noir. Winemaker is Linda Trotta. [www.gunbun.com](http://www.gunbun.com)

**Hagafen Cellars** Owner and winemaker Ernie Weir makes a distinctive Pinot Noir from his estate vineyard in the Napa Valley. I have enjoyed the wines entered in the Pinot Noir Shootouts. I believe the wines are kosher. [www.hagafen.com](http://www.hagafen.com).

**Halleck Vineyard** Ross Halleck exploded on the Pinot Noir scene a couple vintages back with his estate (Sonoma Coast) Pinot Noir and his Three Sons Cuvee from the Russian River Valley. Quantities are small and primarily sold through a mailing list. **2004 Halleck Three Sons Cuvee Russian River Valley Pinot Noir** (\$38). [www.halleckvineyard.com](http://www.halleckvineyard.com). PF



**Hamel Wines** Kevin Hamel is a talented winemaker who doubles as the vintner for Pellegrini Family Vineyards. His Sonoma Coast Campbell Ranch Pinot Noirs have been outstanding. One of my favs. [www.hamelwines.com](http://www.hamelwines.com). PF

**Handley Cellars** One of the Anderson Valley's pioneer winegrowers, Milla Handley has crafted consistently good cool-climate Pinot Noirs in a lighter style. [www.handleycellars.com](http://www.handleycellars.com).

**Hartford Family Winery** The Seascape Vineyard Sonoma Coast bottling has been notable. Prices can be steep (\$60 range). The style has been fat (fruit, alcohol, tannin). Several noted winemakers have worked here including Dan Goldfield. Current winemaker is Jeff Mangahas. Tasting room is at the winery in the Russian River appellation. [www.hartfordwines.com](http://www.hartfordwines.com). PF

**Hirsch Vineyard and Winery** The Hirsch Vineyard has provided grapes for some classic California Pinot Noirs from Kistler, Littorai, Williams Selyem and many others, Hirsch now makes an estate Pinot Noir under the direction of winemaker Mark Doherty from a block of the vineyard previously sourced by Burt Williams. **2004 Hirsch Vineyards Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir** (\$60). [www.hirschvineyards.com](http://www.hirschvineyards.com). PF

**Hitching Post Wines** Chef Frank Ostini, owner of the Hitching Post 2 Restaurant, and fisherman Gray Hartley make several interesting Pinot Noirs from Santa Barbara County. The wines, made famous in the movie, *Sideways*, are available at the restaurant and a number of retail outlets. Recommended. [www.hitchingpost2.com](http://www.hitchingpost2.com). PF





**Holdredge Wines** Pinot Noirs from the Russian River Valley. The tasting room is opposite Davis Family Vineyards tasting room in Healdsburg. John Holdredge is the owner and winemaker. [www.holdredge.com](http://www.holdredge.com). PF

**Hope & Grace Wines** Charles Hendricks makes a single Pinot Noir from the Sleepy Hollow Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands. [www.hopeandgracewine.com](http://www.hopeandgracewine.com). PF

**Hug Cellars** Augie Hug crafts very small quantities of Pinot Noir from Orchid Hill Vineyard in Paso Robles and Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley. [www.hugcellars.com](http://www.hugcellars.com). PF

**Hunter Hill Vineyard and Winery** Vann and Christine Slatter make their wines in Soquel in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Their single Pinot Noir release is from the Sonoma Coast Hellenthal Vineyard. [www.hunterhillwines.com](http://www.hunterhillwines.com).

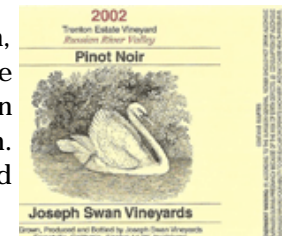
**Inman Family Wines** Kathleen Inman has a highly-regarded estate vineyard, Olivet Grange, on Olivet Road in the Russian River Valley. Both her 2003 and 2004 vintages have been good. She also makes a Pinot Gris from Pinot Noir's white relative. A tasting room is in Windsor. [www.inmanfamilywines.com](http://www.inmanfamilywines.com). PF

**J Wilkes** Jeff Wilkes was a long time manager at Bien Nacido Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley. He ventured out with his own label in 2001. His connections allow him to source choice blocks from Bien Nacido. I have admired his Pinot Noirs which are typically finesse-driven. [www.jwilkes.com](http://www.jwilkes.com). PF



**John Tyler** Pan and John Bacigalupi own the historic Bacigalupi Vineyard on Westside Road in the Russian River Valley. Young Tyler Heck crafts an estate Pinot Noir which I have sampled and liked. [www.johntylerwines.com](http://www.johntylerwines.com). PF

**Joseph Swan Vineyards** Rod Berglund, son-in-law of noted vintner Joseph Swan, is continuing Joe's tradition of age-worthy Pinot Noirs from the Trenton Estate Vineyard on the Joseph Swan property and Saralee's Vineyard also in the Russian River Valley. Distinctive, European-styled Pinot Noirs. [www.swanwinery.com](http://www.swanwinery.com). Look for a report on a tasting of aged Joseph Swan Pinot Noirs from the 1970s and 1980s in next week's *PinotFile*. PF



**Ketcham Estate** A project by co-owners Mark Ketcham (Ketcham Vineyard) and Steven Riginich. (Pinot Days organizer). Winemaker is Michael Brown of Kosta Browne. The next big cult Pinot? [www.ketchamestate.com](http://www.ketchamestate.com).

**Kosta Browne Winery** Owners Dan Kosta and Michael Browne (also the winemaker) have exploded on the Pinot scene in the last few years and their wines are harder to come by than a used Brittany Spears' child's car seat. These are two really nice guys who deserve all the success that has come their way. The Pinots are luscious wines for fruit lovers that remain seductive at significant alcohol levels. Kosta Browne wines will soon be made at Deerfield Winery in Sonoma Valley. Mailing list only, now filled. Secondary auction market prices are well over \$100 a bottle. **2005 Kosta Browne Kanzler Vineyard Pinot Noir** (barrel sample, \$52), **2004 Kosta Browne Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir** (\$40). [www.kostabrowne.com](http://www.kostabrowne.com). PF



**La Rochelle Winery** Steve Mirrasou of California's Mirrasou family has a serious Pinot Noir program. Winemaker is Tom Stutz. A Pinot Noir Tasting Bar is open daily at the historic Livermore Valley location. Grapes are sourced from Monterey County including Arroyo Seco and Santa Lucia Highlands. [www.lrwine.com](http://www.lrwine.com).

**Laetitia Winery** One of the largest Pinot Noir vineyard owners in California (formerly Maison Deutz) located in Arroyo Grande. Quality here is high from the Estate bottling (less than \$20) to the vineyard designate wines (\$60). Winemaker is Erick Hickey. [Www.laetitiawine.com](http://www.laetitiawine.com). PF

**Landmark Vineyards** A consistent producer of fine Pinot Noir known for the Grand Detour bottling. Owners are Michael and Mary Calhoun and winemaker is Eric Stern. [Www.landmarkwine.com](http://www.landmarkwine.com). PF

**Londer Vineyards** The wines here keep getting better with every vintage. 2004 marks the first release of an Estate Pinot Noir in Anderson Valley which I think is outstanding. The 2004 Anderson Valley blend is a very dependable Pinot at \$30. A Keefer Ranch and top of the line Parabol round out the Pinot portfolio. The current winemaker is Rick Davis, but owner Larry Londer sticks his nose in the action and is contributing more to the style here with every vintage. [Www.londervineyards.com](http://www.londervineyards.com). PF



**Loring Wine Company** Brian Loring makes big Caliesque Pinot Noirs that have been well received by enthusiasts. He was one of the first boutique Pinot Noir winemakers to enter the field cold so to speak (he was a software engineer) and succeeded in a very short time. His vineyard sources vary from year to year but are always top-notch, such as Clos Pepe Vineyard, Cargassacchi Vineyard, Keefer Ranch Vineyard, and Garys' Vineyard. He also makes the wines at Pali where a new winemaking facility has been built in Lompoc for both Pali and LWC labels. [Www.loringwinecompany.com](http://www.loringwinecompany.com). PF



**Lost Canyon Winery** The winery and tasting room are right smack in the middle of Oakland near the waterfront. Grapes come from the Russian River Valley and Carneros for the three Pinot Noirs crafted by partners Jack States and Randy Keyworth. Friendly Bob Riskin, the third partner, is the man up front who usually pours at Pinot events. Solid Pinot Noirs year to year with long-term commitments to the same three vineyards. Bob touts his Syrahs also. [Www.lostcanyonwinery.com](http://www.lostcanyonwinery.com). PF

**Lynmar Winery** This winery recently completed a makeover with a beautiful new winery and caves and an inviting tasting room in Sebastopol. Hugh Chappelle (formerly of Flowers) is now the winemaker here and expect the Russian River Valley Pinot Noir to be top notch. A personal fav. [Www.lynmarwinery.com](http://www.lynmarwinery.com). PF



**MacMurray Ranch** This is to be owner Gallo's signature Pinot Noir producer. Winemaker Susan Doyle has shown sparks of excellence and at \$13, the 2004 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir is one of the best Pinot Noirs for the money I have discovered this year. [Www.macmurrayranch.com](http://www.macmurrayranch.com). PF

**MacRostie Winery** Steve Macostie has been turning out consistently good Pinot Noir from Carneros for many years. His recent vintages seem particularly inspired. A Sonoma Coast bottling from Wildcat Mountain Vineyard is also now offered. Winemaker is Kevin Holt. [Www.macrostiewinery.com](http://www.macrostiewinery.com). PF

**Mahoney Vineyards** Francis Mahoney is something of a legend in Carneros. He founded Carneros Creek Winery in 1972 which he left in 2001. He was one of the first to study Pinot Noir clonal selection in Carneros. He now has his own 45-acre Mahoney Ranch Estate Vineyard in Napa Carneros planted to 15 different clones, owns and farms the 115-acre Las Brisas Vineyard near San Francisco Bay in Sonoma Carneros and is still part-owner of the Carneros Creek Winery facility. He introduced the light-styled value-priced Pinot Noir Fleur de Carneros brand in 1991 and recently re-launched the brand as Fleur de California to allow a wider source of grapes. For his estate Pinot Noirs, he has promised himself to stop making wine that pleases the critics. Along with winemaker Ken Foster, he is striving to produce Pinot Noir that comes from place, not a wine for the numbers. [Www.mahoneyvineyards.com](http://www.mahoneyvineyards.com).

**Martinelli Winery** I love their Jackass Hill Zinfandel but the Pinot Noirs are tend to be highly extracted and oaky. You must purchase their other varietals to obtain limited allocations of the Pinot Noirs (hostage wine selling). Helen Turley is the winemaker. Tasting room is in a red barn on River Road in Windsor, CA. Terrific newsletter with much historical interest. [Www.martinelliwinery.com](http://Www.martinelliwinery.com).

**Martine's Wines, Inc.** A distributor owned by Martine Saunier who has an impressive portfolio including Leroy and Denis Mortet of Burgundy. [Www.martineswines.com](http://Www.martineswines.com).

**Melville** The modern winery is located on Hwy 246 in Lompoc, CA in the Santa Rita Hills. Winemakers Greg Brewer and Chad Melville make very interesting Pinot Noirs from selected blocks in the Melville Vineyard (Carries and Terraces, \$52). The Melville Estate Pinot Noir is dependable at \$28. [www.melvillevineyards.com](http://www.melvillevineyards.com). PF

**Miller Wine Works** I have no personal experience with these wines. Owner and winemaker is Gary Miller. Initial vintages of Pinot Noir were from the Hellenthal Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast. [Www.MillerWineWorks.com](http://Www.MillerWineWorks.com).

**Miner Family Winery** This winery is located on the Silverado Trail in Oakville and is well known for its superb Cabernets and Chardonnays. However, they do produce very good Pinot Noir from Rosella's Vineyard and Garys' Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands. The winemaker is Gary Brookman. I really like the rose made here from sangiovese. [Www.minerwines.com](http://Www.minerwines.com). PF

**Morgan Winery** Dan and Donna Lee release four Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noirs annually under the direction of winemaker Gianni Abate. The wines have received favorable press. [Www.morganwinery.com](http://Www.morganwinery.com).



**Moshin Vineyards** Rick Moshin has built a new gravity-flow winery on Westside Road which is home to numerous other producers including Merry Edwards and george. A tasting room at the winery is opening. [Www.moshinvineyards.com](http://Www.moshinvineyards.com). PF

**Mueller Winery** Robert Mueller crafts well-admired Pinot Noirs from the Russian River and the Sonoma Coast. His Emily's Cuvee is widely distributed. [Www.muellerwine.com](http://Www.muellerwine.com)

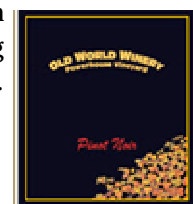
**Native9 Wine** James Ontiveros is the newest generation of a farming family in the Santa Maria Valley. He has the luxury of cherry-picking the best portions of his Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard for this wine which debuted in 2004. For the 2004 vintage, 50% whole clusters were used as the ripeness of the stems coincided with physiological ripening of the grapes. This Pinot Noir is truly decadent. The wine will be sold through a mailing list when licensing is finished in the near future. **2004 Native9 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Santa Maria Valley Pinot Noir** (\$48). [Www.native9wine.com](http://Www.native9wine.com). PF

**Nichols Winery and Cellars** Keith Nichols makes several Pinot noirs from purchased grapes in the Edna Valley. The labels are truly works of art. [Www.nicholswinery.com](http://Www.nicholswinery.com)

**Nicholson Ranch** Owners Ramona Nicholson and Deepak Guirajanim winemaker Thomas Brown. The winery releases several varietals including an Estate Sonoma Valley Pinot Noir from Dijon clones. The winery on Napa Road in Sonoma is a very impressive facility. [Www.nicholsonranch.com](http://Www.nicholsonranch.com).

**Nicolaysen Family Vineyards** Located in Templeton in California's Central Coast, Bob Nicolaysen vinifies Pinot Noirs from the Edna Valley and Bien Nacido Vineyard. [Www.nfvwine.com](http://Www.nfvwine.com).

**Old World Winery** Derek Trowbridge is a boutique producer of Pinot Noir from Windsor Garden Vineyard (40 year old vines which are being torn out for a housing development) and Powerhouse Vineyard in Potter Valley, Mendocino. [Www.oldworldwinery.com](http://Www.oldworldwinery.com).



**Olson Ogden Wines** A Syrah producer in Sebastopol who has recently added Russian River Valley Pinot Noir. Owners Tim Olson (also the winemaker) and John Ogden. [www.olsonogdenwines.com](http://www.olsonogdenwines.com).

**Pali Wine Co** A new Pinot project started by 20 passionate pinotophile investors. Brian Loring of LWC is the winemaker. Located in a new facility in Lompoc. Current inaugural 2005 portfolio includes Pinot Noirs from the Russian River Valley (Olivet Grange Vineyard), Santa Rita Hills (Cargasacchi Vineyard), and the Willamette Valley (Shea Vineyard). [www.paliwineco.com](http://www.paliwineco.com). PF

**Papapietro Perry Winery** Ben Papapietro is a respected winemaker who spent time at Williams Selyem in the early 1990s and models his wines after that winery's style. Bruce Perry is co-owner. Current releases are a Russian River Valley and a Sonoma Coast (Peters Vineyard) Pinot Noir. Tasting room on Dry Creek Road in Healdsburg. [www.papapietro-perry.com](http://www.papapietro-perry.com). PF

**Paradise Vineyard** 130 acres at Sears Point, CA with 51 acres planted to Pinot Noir (clones 05 and multiple Dijon). A new winery and tasting room with panoramic views opens summer of 2006. Owner is Al Brayton and winemaker is Michael Carr. The current release is a reasonably priced Pinot Noir labeled Paradise View Sonoma Coast.. [www.paradisevineyard.com](http://www.paradisevineyard.com). (Not to be confused with Paradise Ridge which is located in the Russian River Valley).

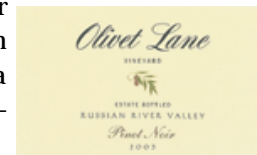
**Paraiso Vineyards** Located in Soledad, CA. Produces Pinot Noir from purchased grapes in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Owner Rich Smith, winemaker Dave Fleming. [www.paraisovineyards.com](http://www.paraisovineyards.com).

**Patz & Hall Wine Company** A long time producer of excellent Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from purchased grapes in Sonoma, Monterey and Mendocino Counties. Co-owners are Donald Patz and James Hall (Hall is also the winemaker). A very dependable label. The Sonoma Coast Cuvee Pinot Noir (\$36) has been quite successful and the 2004 vintage won the Red Sweepstakes Award at the 2006 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. A tasting room has recently been opened in Napa marking the first time in Patz & Hall's history that they have been open to the public. [www.patzhall.com](http://www.patzhall.com). PF



**Pelican Ranch Winery** Professor of Chemistry Phil Crews crafts Pinot Noirs from multiple appellations including Santa Rita Hills, Santa Cruz Mtns, and Santa Lucia Highlands. [www.pelicanranch.com](http://www.pelicanranch.com).

**Pellegrini Family Vineyards** Bob Pellegrini has farmed the heritage Pinot Noir Olivet Lane Vineyard for over 30 years. His beautiful Tuscan-inspired winery on Olivet Road contains a tasting room and is must visit in the area. Bob produces a wide range of fine wines in addition to Pinot Noir. Kevin Hamel heads the wine-making team. [www.pellegrinisonoma.com](http://www.pellegrinisonoma.com). PF



**Per Bacco Cellars** Owner Craig Shannon and winemaker Paul Wilkins produce several Pinot Noirs from the Arroyo Grande Valley. [www.perbaccocellars.com](http://www.perbaccocellars.com).

**Pey-Marin Vineyards** Jonathan and Susan Pey have put Marin County Pinot Noir on the map. They also make a unique Marin County Riesling of high interest. A personal fav. [www.marinwines.com](http://www.marinwines.com). PF

**Philo Ridge Winery** A joint venture between Fred Buonanno and Heather McKelvey. Anderson Valley Pinot Noir. [www.philoridge.com](http://www.philoridge.com).

**Pietra Santa Winery** The Blackburn Family produces primarily a line of Italian varietals from their historic Cienega Valley vineyard in Hollister, CA. Winegrowing here dates to the 1850s. The distinctive Pinot Noir comes from the Cienega Valley and there is both an Estate and Vache (named after the original Frenchman who planted the vineyard) Pinot Noir. [www.pietrasantawinery.com](http://www.pietrasantawinery.com)

**Pisoni Vineyard & Winery** One of California's "grand cru" vineyards. The Pisoni family bottles an estate Pinot Noir which is highly coveted and supplies grapes to numerous top California producers.



Located in the Santa Lucia Highlands, the vineyard was first planted in the 1980s. [Www.pisonivineyards.com](http://Www.pisonivineyards.com). PF

**Point Concepcion Wines/Cargasacchi** Peter Cargasacchi farms a prestigious Pinot Noir vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills as well as producing his own wines. [Www.pointconcepcionwines.com](http://Www.pointconcepcionwines.com). PF

**Porter Creek Vineyards** Owner George Davis bought this 34-acre parcel on Westside Road in 1979. In 1997, he turned over the winemaking duties to his son, Alex, who trained at Cal State Fresno and apprenticed with Christophe Roumier in Burgundy. The tasting shed is very modest. A little-known producer worth sampling. Three Pinot Noirs are produced: Fiona Hill Vineyard, Hillside Vineyard and a Reserve. [Www.portercreekvineyards.com](http://Www.portercreekvineyards.com). PF

**Raye's Hill Vineyard and Winery** Dan Sokolow crafts very good Anderson Valley Pinot Noirs that are reasonably priced. A tasting room is opposite the Boonville Hotel in Philo. [Www.rayeshill.com](http://Www.rayeshill.com). PF

**Rhys Vineyard** A new ambitious Pinot Noir project by Kevin Harvey in the Santa Cruz Mountain Appellation. Multiple Pinot Noir vineyards have been planted, but production to date is miniscule. Current releases are from purchased grapes under the Alesia label. Winemakers are Jason Jardine and Jeff Brickman. Keep an eye on this one. **2004 Alesia Kanzler Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir**. [Www.rhysvineyards.com](http://Www.rhysvineyards.com). PF



**ROAR Winery** Owner is Gary Francioni (Garys' Vineyard) and winemakers are Adam and Diana Lee. The current releases are from Garys' Vineyard and Pisoni Vineyard. The style here is robust fruit-driven Pinot Noirs. [Www.roarwines.com](http://Www.roarwines.com).

**Robert Hunter Winery** Owner Robert E. Hunter, Jr. and winemaker Chris Loxton. Current releases are a 300 case Estate Sonoma Valley Pinot Noir and a 1999 Brut de Noir from Sonoma Valley. Tours of the estate's beautiful gardens are recommended (by appointment). [Www.roberthunterwinery.com](http://Www.roberthunterwinery.com).

**Rodney Strong Vineyards** An historic winery in the Russian River Valley. Rodney Strong recently passed away leaving a legacy of fine wine from the Valley. Gary Farrell was the winemaker here for a number of years. The current winemaker is Rick Sayre. The winery's Jane's Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir is good. [Www.rodneystrong.com](http://Www.rodneystrong.com).

**Roessler Cellars** Owners Roger and Rich Roessler work with new winemaker Scott Shapley to focus on multiple single-vineyard Pinot Noirs from premium vineyards throughout California. There are 8 different Pinot Noirs from the 2004 vintage. **2004 Roessler Cellars La Brisa Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir** (a blend of vineyards priced at \$28 and very good). [Www.roesslercellars.com](http://Www.roesslercellars.com). PF



**Row Eleven Wine Company** Experienced winemaker, Richard de los Reyes, crafts excellent softly-styled Pinot Noirs from select vineyards in California. **2002 Row Eleven Wine Co Quartier 116 Pinot Noir**. [Www.roweleven.com](http://Www.roweleven.com). PF

**Russian Hill Estate Winery** Owner Edward Gomez is a retired doctor and his son-in-law, Patrick Melley, handles the winemaking duties. The panoramic view from the tasting room is a killer and the Pinot Noirs from the estate vineyard and other sources in the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast are first rate. [Www.russianhillwinery.com](http://Www.russianhillwinery.com). PF

**Saintsbury** The standard-bearer for Carneros Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. A Pinot Noir you can always count on for consistent high quality. Many noted winemakers have worked here include Byron Kosuge. The thrust in recent years has been on vineyard-designate Pinot Noirs including the flagship Brown Ranch Estate Pinot Noir. Long-time owners are Richard Ward and David Graves. [Www.saintsbury.com](http://Www.saintsbury.com). PF

**Savannah Chanelle Vineyards** A Saratoga-based winery that also buys grapes from several sources in California including the Armagh Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast and Laetitia Vineyard in Arroyo Grande. Michael and Kellie Ballard are the owners. The winemaker is Anthony Craig (formerly the winemaker at David Bruce for many years). [www.savannahchanelle.com](http://www.savannahchanelle.com).

**Schug Carneros Estate Winery** A long-time fixture on the Carneros winescape. Owner and winemaker Walter Schug is a Pinot Noir icon who has crafted interesting wines for many years. His wines have always been sensibly priced. [www.schugwinery.com](http://www.schugwinery.com). PF

**Sea Smoke Cellars** Owner Bob Davids and winemaker Kris Curren have exploded on the California cult Pinot Noir scene with their bold and bright Pinot Noirs. The coveted wines are sold primarily to a mailing list. [www.seasmokecellars.com](http://www.seasmokecellars.com). PF



TEN  
APPELLATION SANTA RITA HILLS  
Santa Barbara County California  
100% PINO NOIR

**Siduri Wines** Adam and Dianne Lee are passionate vintner workhorses who travel California and Oregon to source Pinot Noir grapes for their multiple bottlings. The wines vary considerably in style from big and oaky (Amber Rose) to plush and elegant (Sapphire Hill Vineyard). I have sampled many Siduri Pinot Noirs and although I greatly admire the Lees, I have not found many of the bottlings in a style suitable to my taste. [www.siduri.com](http://www.siduri.com).

**Silver Mountain Vineyards** Owner Jerold O'Brien sits high up in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He has a fledgling estate Pinot Noir vineyard, but his best wines come from purchased grapes. He shares the winemaking duties with Anthony Craig (Savannah-Chanelle and Sonnet). **2003 Silver Mountain Vineyards Miller Hill Vineyard Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir.** [www.silvermtn.com](http://www.silvermtn.com). PF



**Skewis Wines** Hank Skewis uses his years of experience in winegrowing and winemaking to craft distinctive Pinot Noirs that I admire. His grape sources include Salzgeber-Chan Vineyard and Bush Vineyard in the Russian River Valley and Demuth Vineyard in Anderson Valley. [www.skewiswines.com](http://www.skewiswines.com). PF

**Sojourn Cellars** Owner Craig Hasserot and winemaker Erich Bradley produce a Sangiacomo Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir. Production is miniscule (210 cases). **2004 Sojourn Sangiacomo Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir.** [www.sojourncellars.com](http://www.sojourncellars.com).

**Sonnet** Anthony Craig found the inspiration for his own label from his past as a Shakespearean actor. For many years, the respected winemaker at David Bruce, he crafts unique Pinot Noirs from carefully selected vineyards. His style is elegant and balanced and very food-worthy. Interestingly, he uses only Hungarian oak for aging, trying to avoid what he deems potentially harsh and undesirable oak tannins in French barrels. **2004 Sonnet Tondre's Grapefield Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir.** [www.sonnetwinecellars.com](http://www.sonnetwinecellars.com). PF

**Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards** Owned by Brown-Forman, this producer is well-known for its Chardonnays. In recent years, they have started a Pinot Noir program under the direction of Terry Adams and Elliott Millett. [www.sonomacutrer.com](http://www.sonomacutrer.com). PF

**Stephen Ross Wine Cellars** Stephen Dooley has years of experience producing wine in the Edna Valley and now has his own label (the wines are made at Central Coast Wine Services; a tasting room is in San Luis Obispo). A very good producer with multiple Pinot Noirs including bottlings from Bien Nacido and Aubaine Vineyards. He has teamed with Talley Vineyards to develop a new Pinot Noir vineyard in Arroyo Grande. [www.stephenrosswine.com](http://www.stephenrosswine.com). PF

**Stoller Vineyards** Bill Stoller has transformed his family's turkey farm into a first class Pinot Noir vineyard and winery in the Dundee Hills. The recently-completed state-of-the-art winery is the first in Oregon to be LEED-certified. The estate grown Pinot Noir crafted by Melissa Burr is excellent. [www.stollervineyards.com](http://www.stollervineyards.com). PF

**Stubbs Vineyard** Mary and Tom Stubbs farm a small Pinot Noir vineyard in Marin County. Their estate Pinot Noir is made by Dan Goldfield (Dutton-Goldfield). [www.stubbsvineyard.com](http://www.stubbsvineyard.com). PF

**Talisman Cellars** Scott Rich is a mountain man who seeks out vineyards that are climatically and geographically on the edge of viticulture. He honed his skills in winemaking at Etude. His Pinot Noirs are the best kept secret in California. Built to age, they are truly unique expressions of their terroir. Current bottlings include Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, Thorn Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast and Ted's Vineyard in the Russian River Valley. One of my favs. [www.talismanwine.com](http://www.talismanwine.com). PF

**Tandem Winery** Owner and winemaker is Greg LaFollette. He has released some sexy Pinots from multiple vineyard sources in Sonoma County. [www.tandemwinery.com](http://www.tandemwinery.com). PF



**Tantara Winery** Jeff Fink & Bill Cates craft multiple Pinot Noirs from their winery on the Bien Nacido Vineyard property. Besides Bien Nacido, they access grapes from the Santa Rita Hills, Arroyo Grande Valley and Santa Lucia Highlands. They are quite expensive (mostly \$45-60), but some of their Pinot Noirs can be quite memorable. [www.tantarawinery.com](http://www.tantarawinery.com). PF

**Tayerle** Loren Tayerle, based in San Francisco, makes inexpensive Pinot Noirs from the Russian River Valley, Carneros and the Central Coast. 877-894-3118.

**Testarossa Vineyards** Owned by Rob & Diana Jensen and housed in a historic winery in Los Gatos, this label was brought to prominence by winemaker Ed Kurtzman. He has left, but current winemaker, Bill Brousseau, has carried on admirably. [www.testarossa.com](http://www.testarossa.com).

**Thomas Fogerty Winery** Noted cardiovascular surgeon, Thomas Fogerty, MD, used his royalties from medical device inventions to establish a winery in the hills of Woodside overlooking Silicon Valley. His Santa Cruz Mtns Pinot Noirs are typical for the appellation and quite good. The winemaker is Michael Martella. **2003 Thomas Fogerty Winery Rapley Trail Vineyard Santa Cruz Mtns Pinot Noir**. [www.fogertywinery.com](http://www.fogertywinery.com).

**Tolosa Winery** Owner is Bob Schiebelhut and winemaker is Larry Brooks (Campion). Central Coast Pinot Noirs. [www.tolosawinery.com](http://www.tolosawinery.com).

**TR Elliott** A boutique label of Ted Elliott's in Santa Rosa using purchased grapes from the Russian River Valley. The first vintages have been very promising. [www.elliottfamilycellars.com](http://www.elliottfamilycellars.com). PF

**Truchard Vineyards** Tony Truchard, MD left medicine many years ago to farm grapes in the Carneros. He has been very successful with multiple varieties from his large vineyard plantings. His Pinot Noir has been consistently excellent and sensibly priced. Current winemaker is Sal De Lanni. [www.truchardvineyard.com](http://www.truchardvineyard.com).

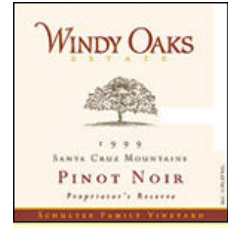
**Tudor Wines** Dan Tudor crafts Pinot Noir from the Santa Lucia Highlands. His family has a long grape-growing tradition in Croatia going back hundreds of years. [www.tudorwines.com](http://www.tudorwines.com).

**Vision Cellars** Mac McDonald strikes quite a pose at Pinot events for he is a tall African American with a big straw signature hat. He produces a line of Pinot Noirs that have received considerable notoriety of late include bottlings from Garys' Vineyard and Rosella's Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands, a Sonoma County blend, and from Chileno Valley in Marin County. [www.visioncellars.com](http://www.visioncellars.com). PF



**WillowBrook Cellars** A boutique operation working out of the old apple processing plant on Gravenstein Hwy in Sebastopol, the home of many small Sonoma winemakers. Joe Otos partners with John Tracy and Ed Sillari to produce Pinot Noirs from Owl Ridge Vineyard in Forestville and Dutton-Morelli Vineyard in the Russian River Valley. [www.willowbrookcellars.com](http://www.willowbrookcellars.com).

**Windy Oaks Estate** Jim and Judy Schultze have a small vineyard in Corralitos in the southern end of the Santa Cruz Mountain chain. Their Burgundian model is estate grown and bottled Pinot Noir. The Shultzes travel yearly to Burgundy to meet with coopers and pick up winemaking tips. This is a label to watch and one of my favs. **2003 Windy Oaks Estate Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir.**  
 Www.windyoaks.com. PF



**Woodenhead** Mikolai Stez is using his experience as a worker at Williams Selyem in the 1990s to craft hardy, but tasty, Pinot Noirs from the Russian River Valley and Anderson Valley. He is one of the three winerys along with Brogan Cellars and Whitcraft to receive fruit from Burt Williams's Morning Dew Ranch Vineyard in the Anderson Valley. One of my favs. Www.woodenheadwine.com.  
 PF

It was 4:00 PM on Sunday when I hobbled out the door of the Festival Pavilion thinking "no mas." While looking for a cool place to nap, I thought about my understanding wife at home who thinks I have gone off the deep end. There was only one thing to do: jump in the car and head straight home. See below.







PrinceofPinot.com

Look for upcoming audio broadcasts of the PinotFile available for downloading.

**If You Drink No Noir  
You Pinot Noir**

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## **Family Winemakers of California 16th Annual Tasting**

**More than 350 wineries (the largest tasting of California wines in the world), many of which are small and family-owned, will be pouring over 1,000 wines. The event is held at the Fort Meson Center Festival Pavilion in San Francisco, California on Sunday, August 20, 2006, from 12:00 - 4:00 PM, and is open to the Public and Trade. A second tasting is on Monday, August 21, 2006, from 1:00 - 6:00 PM, which is only open to the Trade.**

**No charge for the Trade (contact [www.familywinemakers.org](http://www.familywinemakers.org)). Public tickets are \$35 in advance available at the same website or call 415-721-4740.**

## **Emile Peynaud Touted Nosing**

Emile Peynaud wrote the classic treatise on the scientific basis of wine tasting and appreciation. His book (originally in French and released in 1983, translated to English by Michael Schuster in 1987) is titled: *The Taste of Wine: The Art and Science of Wine Appreciation*. I recently read the book, and although it can be far too wordy about some principals of wine tasting, parts of the book are very succinct and clear. You would do well to read this book if you have any scientific curiosity at all about the physiological basis of wine tasting.

I particularly enjoyed the part of the book where he explained “nosing” and how we perceive aromas. There are two routes to the nasal mucosa: the direct nasal route via air passed through the nostrils and the retronasal route where air is sucked up the internal channel connecting the back of the mouth to the nasal passageways. Peynaud explains: “The bouquets of great wines are regarded in a similar manner to rare and subtle perfumes, so that a connoisseur will admit to getting almost as much pleasure from nosing as from drinking. Indeed, he will devote more time to nosing, as though wanting to put off actual drinking. Our sense of smell is certainly the paramount sense where tasting is concerned and a quintessential part of wine is its odorous elements.” Has anyone every said that more clearly? Have you ever smelled a glass emptied of Pinot Noir? The residual wine along the walls and bottom of the glass offer a subtle, but wondrous perfume that can be enjoyed far beyond the emptying of the glass.

Peynaud goes on to explain the confusing terms, aroma and bouquet, which are often used by tasters interchangeably. Aroma refers to the odor elements in young wines (ie the primary perfume of the fruit and the attendant oak) while bouquet develops through aging (leather, earth, barnyard, meat, soy, vitamin, etc.) Aromas can further be divided into primary (directly from the grape) and secondary (aromas that develop during fermentation secondary to yeast and bacterial activity).

Read this book and you can match words with any other Pinot Geek.