

PinotFile[©]

Antonin Rodet

The history of this Burgundy estate dates to 1875, when Antoine Rodet entered the wine business in Mercurey. His son Antonin Rodet, whose name the company carries, developed the business throughout Burgundy and was succeeded by his son-in-law, the Marquis de Jouennes, owner of Chateau de Chamirey. Today, the business is still managed by members of the family including Martin Prieur and Bertrand Devillard, grandson-in-law to Antonin Rodet. It is Bertrand who in recent years has driven the business to top-notch quality.

The house of Antonin Rodet has an array of domains that is, quite literally, unique in Burgundy. It owns the most land in Burgundy, as well as top-flight vineyards in almost every village in the Cote d'Or. It is the only company to own land in all four of the great vineyards of Chambertin, Musigny, Montrachet, and Clos de Vougeot. Winemaker for all wines is the well-regarded Nadine Gublin.

Domaine Jacques Prieur: owns 50 acres of exclusively classified Grand Crus and Premier Crus vineyards in the Cote de Nuits and Cote de Beaune. There are 9 Grand Cru and 8 Premier Cru wines produced within these vineyards— truly a unique situation in Burgundy. “Domaine Jacques Prieur has rapidly become one of Burgundy’s finest domaines.” - Robert Parker.

Domaine Des Pedrix: Bertrand took over management of this domain in 1995. The domain owns 30 acres in the heart of the Cote de Nuits including the Monopole Nuits-St-GeorgesAux Perdrix and a large parcel of Echezeaux.

Chateau de Chamirey: owns prestigious parcels in Mercurey (50% are Premier Crus) and is the largest producer of white Mercurey.

Chateau de Rully: an ancient fortress that overlooks the village of Rully and surrounded by 115 acres of primarily chardonnay vineyards.

Antonin Rodet Selections: inexpensive AOC line of wines of outstanding quality. Rodet contracts hectares and purchases wines from them so they can control the viticulture and final blends. The Rodet Bourgogne Pinot Noir at \$10 is made from vineyards averaging 20 years of age. A great daily drinker with good cherry fruit, medium body, and a silky quality to the finish.

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

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So you want to be a winemaker? Median salary for the typical Pinot Noir producer (under 10,000 cases) is \$43,000. Wineries with 10,000-50,000 case production pay their winemakers a median salary of \$70,000.

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Woodenhead Cellars

Winemaker/owner Nikolai Stez was an apprentice at Williams Selyem for 17 years where he served as Burt Williams' assistant. He is a no-nonsense guy who would much rather drink wine than try to promote and sell it. Besides a monster Zin, he has two Pinot Noirs currently on the market. Check Wine Exchange and Hi-Time for availability.

Woodenhead Cellars Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2001 \$30 This wine is from two vineyards— a 4 year old vineyard with Dijon 115 and Pommard clones and an 8 year old vineyard planted to Pommard clones only. It is a masculine wine, with medium tannins, cola, cherry, and strawberry flavors. Unfined and unfiltered. It is a BIG Pinot and not for everyone.

Woodenhead Cellars Buena Tierra Humboldt County Pinot Noir 2001 \$38 A curiosity as Humboldt County has rarely been a source of quality Pinot Noir grapes. However this wine will make you a believer. Another bruiser for those that like he-man Pinot Noir.



Papapietro Perry Pinot Noir

Another wine with a Williams Selyem connection. The co-owners worked at harvest and hung out with the crew at Williams Selyem for many years. Since starting their own label a few years ago, they have produced some quality "cult" Pinots. Check Wine Exchange for availability.

Papapietro Perry, Peter's Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir 2001 \$34 650 cases. A highly awarded Pinot Noir. Best of Class LA County Fair, Double Gold Medal San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, Gold Medal Orange County Fair, WS 90. An elegant Pinot with exotic sweetness of fruit and that magic Burgundy *je ne sais quoi*. A supple finish that is pure and focused. Like Dante Hall with the football taking it to the house. A thoroughbred.

Lynmar Quail Hill Vineyard

Quail Hill is a dry-farmed vineyard planted in the early 1970's in the Russian River Valley. Low in tons-per-acre and high in flavor, the fruit is highly regarded by winemakers. Quail Hill has Goldridge soil, a well-drained, well-balanced combination of sand, silt, and clay. The area is very cool so the growing season is long with long hang time. The principles of sustainable agriculture are used here to enhance the natural growing conditions.

Lynmar Quail Cuvée Pinot Noir 1999 and 2000 \$35 The 1999 is a big, powerful, full-bodied Pinot Noir with an explosion of fruit. It is unusually dark in color. The 2000 is a more elegant wine with balanced finesse and power, dark cherry flavors and overtones of Chinese herbs and spice. If the 1999 Quail Cuvée Pinot Noir is like the race horse Seabiscuit due to its power and length, then the 2000 is like War Admiral with its grace and elegance. The two wines show dramatically the variations of vintage.

1-707-829-3374, www.lynmarwinery.com

Robledo Family Winery Makes History

The Robledo Family Winery is California's first Latino-owned working winery and tasting room. Located in Sonoma, the Robledos make Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc. They own roughly 200 acres of vineyard land and manage more than 400 acres in Napa and Sonoma counties for other landowners. While there are other Latino-owned wine labels in the state, Robledo is the first with a working winery.

In 1968, Reynaldo Robledo Sr came to California from Michoacan, Mexico, to pick grapes. Thirty-five years later, his family created Robledo Family Winery and all of Reynaldo and wife Maria's seven sons and two daughters are involved in the business.



Dusky Goose Pinot Noir

Neil Goldschmidt, former Governor of Oregon, and his wife, Diana, of Portland, Oregon have partnered with John and Linda Carter of Atherton, California to create Dusky Goose Pinot Noir. The first vintage, 2002, will be available in Spring 2004 and will be limited to 350 cases, produced from fruit from the Goldschmidt Vineyard in the Red Hills of Dundee. Well-known winemaker Lynn Penner-Ash, who makes Pinot Noir under her own name and was winemaker at Rex Hill Vineyards for more than 10 years, will be making the wine

**The word
"dusky" means
dark in color.**

St. Innocent Update

Winemaker Mark Vlossak reports that two 2001 Pinot Noirs released in September are the best wines from these vineyards that he has yet produced (where have we heard that before?). The 2001 vintage had very low yields throughout with perfect ripeness and no rain or disease problems. The **2001 Freedom Hill Vineyard** is the most structured Pinot Noir in the St. Innocent lineup. "I had no idea it would be so good," said Mark. \$30 The **2001 Brickhouse Vineyard** is the last vintage of seven from this vineyard. This organically grown site produces layered wines with a real sense of Burgundy funk under the lovely berry and spice flavors that define its terroir. From now on, all the grapes from Brickhouse will be used by its owner, Doug Tunnell under the Brickhouse Winery label. "The last and definitely the best," according to Mark. \$34

The most popular wine at the 2003 Spring Open House was the **2001 White Rose Vineyard Pinot Noir**. "My most hedonistic wine ever, and hedonism is a good thing." Limited production and distribution. \$34

The 2001 vintage was so great that a **2001 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir** was also released as an every-day drinking wine. It is a blend of Seven Springs Vineyard and Freedom Hill Vineyard declassified grapes.

1-503-378-1526, cell 1-503-932-2129, www.stinnocentwine.com

STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT

He looked across the table and saw the wet lips, caring eyes, and jet black hair. She stared back at his kind, strong face knowing she had finally met her soulmate. The tasting bar was chaotic and noisy, but the two of them were oblivious. They had so much in common. They both spoke German. "BMW," she purred. "Mercedes," he laughed. They both loved literature. "*People*," she declared. "*Golf Digest*," he countered. They were so happy. Life was so good. He hailed a waiter. "Bordeaux?" he questioned hopefully. "Burgundy," she responded softly. Life could be so sad, so cruel. She caught a taxi home and cried over a glass of '79 Pommard-Rugiens. He drank most of a bottle of '78 Lynch-Bages and slept in the back seat of his car.

The Ten Commandments of Pinot

My apologies to Harvey (Fuqua) and the Moonglows who first sang "The Ten Commandments of Love" in the 1950's.

Thou shalt never love another

Stand by me all the while

Take happiness with the heartaches

Go through the cellar wearing a smile

Thou shall always have faith in Pinot in everything it gives and does

Love me with all your heart and soul

Come to me when I am lonely

Taste me when the time is right

Treat me sweet and gentle

And always do what's right

Some more new releases worth looking for:

Schug Heritage Reserve Pinot Noir 2001 \$35

La Crema Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir 2001 \$15

Drew Family Santa Rita Hills

"Gatekeeper's" Pinot Noir 2002 \$50

MacMurray (Gallo) Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2001 \$22

Patz & Hall Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2001 \$30

Sineann Resonance Pinot Noir 2002 \$45

(biodynamically farmed, crushed by foot)

Ati Rangi (NZ) Pinot Noir 2001 \$40

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PrinceofPinot.com