

James Laube's Recommended California Pinot Noirs

For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or www.winespectator.com.
An alphabetical listing of all wines tasted for this report is available at www.winespectator.com/093008.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
MARCASSIN Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Blue-Slide Ridge Vineyard 2003 Offers wonderful fruit purity, with rich, fleshy plum, wild berry and raspberry fruit that's supple and focused.	96	\$90
MARCASSIN Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2003 An immense wine that's rich and concentrated, with taut, supple blueberry, wild berry and blackberry fruit.	95	\$120
AUBERT Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast UV Vineyard 2005 Smooth and richly flavored, with savory dark berry, blackberry, herb, mineral and sage flavors.	94	\$80
KOSTA BROWNE Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2006 Fresh, floral raspberry and black cherry scents are elegant and vibrant, picking up body, richness and depth.	94	\$68
A.P. VIN Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Kanzler Vineyard 2006 Savory, rich and complex, with loamy wild berry, huckleberry and boysenberry flavors that are concentrated and polished.	93	\$48
AUBERT Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Reuling Vineyard 2005 Fresh and vibrant. Spice, cola, dried berry, sage and savory dark berry flavors are intense, focused, complex and lively.	93	\$80
KOSTA BROWNE Pinot Noir California 4-Barrel 2006 Rich and complex, with fresh, ripe, supple plum, raspberry and wild berry fruit that's smooth and caressing on the palate.	93	\$68
MARCASSIN Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Three Sisters Vineyard 2003 Supple, graceful and polished, with ripe plum, black cherry, smoky, toasty oak and subtle mineral and herbal scents.	93	\$75
ADRIAN FOG Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy Vineyard 2005 Intense and well-proportioned, with a tight beam of spicy cherry and berry flavors that are rich and floral.	92	\$75
DAVIS BYNUM Pinot Noir Russian River Valley The Backbone 2004 Pure, ripe black cherry and wild berry fruit have touches of spice, anise, cedar and hazelnut. Firms up on the palate.	92	\$75
DARIOUSH Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Signature 2005 Elegant and stylish, with complex layers of ripe plum, blackberry, fresh earth and savory herbal scents.	92	\$48
DIERBERG Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2005 Beautifully crafted, rich, intense and elegant, with a stylish mix of earthy raspberry, wild berry and blackberry fruit.	92	\$42
DONUM Pinot Noir Carneros 2005 Rich and intense, with a medley of ripe plum, black cherry, cola and saffrafrs flavors. Tightly focused, firm and spicy.	92	\$65
DREW FAMILY Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast McDougall Ranch Vineyard 2006 Elegant and graceful, with delicate, fragrant floral, raspberry, wild berry and cherry flavors that are evenly distributed.	92	\$50

TOP WINES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
GOLDENEYE Pinot Noir Anderson Valley 2005 Rich and distinctive, with concentrated loamy earth, black cherry, wild berry, savory spice and fresh earth scents.	92	\$55
LA ROCHELLE Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2005 Fresh and floral, with plum and black cherry blossom scents that turn rich and complex on the palate.	92	\$52
PAPAPIETRO PERRY Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2006 Ripe and vibrant, with wonderful intensity. Shows well-structured black cherry, wild berry and raspberry fruit.	92	\$43
ROCHIOLI Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2006 A fragrant, delicate style, with pretty plum, black cherry and wild berry scents that are both rich and elegant.	92	\$58
SEA SMOKE Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Ten 2006 Combines bold, ripe and rich black cherry, wild berry, plum and blackberry fruit, with spice, cedar and wild berry.	92	\$80
WILLIAMS SELYEM Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Rochioli Riverblock Vineyard Twenty-Fifth Anniversary 2005 Complex aromas of black cherry, raspberry and floral berry blossom have a touch of light oak and an anise and sage hint.	92	\$75

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CUVAISON Pinot Noir Napa Valley Carneros 2006 This is firm, with rich, spicy plum and black cherry fruit that's tight and well-structured.	90	\$30
DE LOACH Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2006 Rich and assertive, with intense, well-centered blackberry and raspberry fruit that has a pleasant floral, spicy air about it.	89	\$20
ANGELINE Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2006 Fresh and vibrant, with supple plum and blueberry flavors.	87	\$14
ANGELINE Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2006 A fragrant, delicate style, with plum, raspberry and wild berry fruit that's more subtle than assertive.	87	\$14
CASTLE ROCK Pinot Noir Mendocino County 2006 Aromas of ripe cherry, tree bark and wild raspberry are elegant, stylish and balanced, with nice focus.	86	\$12
CASTLE ROCK Pinot Noir Monterey County 2006 Wild berry flavors have good focus, with spicy, toasty notes.	86	\$12
NAVARRO Pinot Noir Mendocino 2005 Notably earthy, with dried berry fruit, anise, sage and cedar.	86	\$18
DE LOACH Pinot Noir California Cote De Loach 2006 Delivers easy-drinking strawberry and black cherry flavors.	84	\$12
MERIDIAN Pinot Noir California 2006 Fresh, with snappy cranberry and wild berry flavors.	83	\$11
ROBERT MONDAVI Pinot Noir California Private Selection 2006 Ripe wild berry and cherry flavors are focused and direct.	83	\$11