year's best Pinot Noir



Over the last 12 months, Wine & Spirits tasted 467 American pinot noir.

These 11 wines received the strongest praise from our critics.

Subscribers can download a complete list of all American pinot noirs tasted at wineandspiritsmagazine.com

94 | Calera

\$60

2003 Mt. Harlan Selleck Vineyard Pinot Noir If you prize subtlety in point noir, you'll want this in your cellar. Herbal tones quickly evaporate, leaving a delicate raspberry flavor and a dark, smoky length. (W&S 4/07) Calera Wine Company, Hollister, CA

94 | Dutton Goldfield

\$55

2004 Russian River Valley Sanchietti Vineyard Pinto Noir This feels cool and dense, the texture voluptuous, the interplay of flavors completely satisfying. This will likely be showing at its best around six years from the vintage. (W&S 10/06) Dutton Goldfield Winery, Sebastopol, CA

94 | Orogeny

\$3

2004 Green Valley Pinot Noir Texture drives this wine: lithe and silky. Lacy tannins grip it forcefully while the transparent strawberry and violet scents deepen to blueberry. (W&S 10/06) Orogeny, Santa Rosa CA

94 | Harrington

\$38

2005 Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Pinot Noir Scents of red earth and conifers add a complex spice to this wine's red fruit, fresh and beautifully knit. Its dynamic evolution with air suggests a long evolution in the cellar. (W&S 4/07) Harrington Wines, San Francisco, CA

94 | Williams Selyem

\$72

2004 Russian River Valley Rochioli Riverblock Vineyard Pinot Noir

Delicate scents of beeswax, violets and wild strawberry hover over a firm, stony structure. It's clean and tightly formed, with an emphasis on finesse. Built for the cellar. (W&S 2/07) Williams Selyem Winery, Healdsburg, CA

93 | Calera

\$55

2003 Mt. Harlan Jensen Vineyard Pinot Noir This needs hours of air: The tannins are initially hard, the acidity youthful, the fruit delicate but persistent in its fresh cherry tone. It shows a lot of potential to develop. (*W&S 4/07*) Calera Wine Company, Hollister, CA

93 | Flowers

\$50

2003 Sonoma Coast Keefer Ranch Pinot Noir Several aspects make this Green Valley wine compelling: the beautiful color, the secnt of the sea, the way it leaves your mouth feeling fresh. An elegant pinot noir. (W&S 6/06) Flowers Vineyard & Winery, Cazadero, CA

93 | Hirsch

\$60

2004 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir The Pacific is palpable in this wine's bright fruit tinged with brine, in the mouthwatering acidity and the mouthstaining blackberry tannins. It's supple and intoxicating, needing years to develop. (*W&S 4/07*) Hirsch Winery, Cazadero, CA

93 | Rex Hill

\$42

2004 Oregon Reserve Pinot Noir A rich red earth character supports the wine's dark cherry flavors and contributes to its velvety texture. For roast salmon. (W&S 4/07) Rex Hill Vineyards, Newberg, OR

93 | Stoller

\$40

2004 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir This Dundee Hills pinot is generously fruity and seductive, with a vinous core grounding the strawberry flavor. (*W&S* 4/07) Stoller Vineyards, Tualatin, OR

93 | Summerland

\$48

2005 Santa Rita Hills Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir Distinctive with its scents of chaparral and lasting impression of minerality, this wine's tart cherry flavors are bright and sleek. Enjoyable now with Alaskan black cod. (W&S 4/07) Summerland Winery, Summerland, CA

