

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/093009.

TOP WINES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
LANDMARK Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Kanzler 2007 Very ripe, with great depth, touching on berry jam. Yet this is balanced, complex, focused and pure, with lively wild berry and black cherry fruit framed by spicy notes and firm tannins.	94	\$65
LORING Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Clos Pepe Vineyard 2007 Offers wonderful purity of fruit. Ripe, rich, intense and focused, with tiers of currant, black cherry and blueberry fruit that's simply delicious. Supple, layered and complex.	94	\$50
MERRYVALE Pinot Noir Carneros Stanly Ranch Estate 2007 Perfumed floral, plum jam, black cherry and berry fruit is supple, elegant, focused and balanced. Long and rich, gaining depth, nuance and complexity.	94	\$45
PETER MICHAEL Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Le Moulin Rouge Pisoni Vineyard 2007 Delicious, rich and concentrated, with tiers of pure black cherry, plum and wild berry flavors that are intense and well-structured, ending with a long, full finish.	94	\$95
PAPAPIETRO PERRY Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Pommard Clones 2007 Supple and elegant, with a core of spicy black cherry, wild berry and raspberry fruit that's focused, complex and concentrated, yet delicate in its weight and texture.	94	\$70
RED CAR Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2007 Focused on a core of black cherry and blackberry fruit that's medium- to full-bodied, complex and spicy. Smooth-textured, with a long finish.	94	\$45
ROESSLER Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Savoy 2007 Beautifully defined fruit is ripe, intense, focused and layered, built around a core of blueberry and wild raspberry. Firms up on the finish, where the tannins give the flavors traction.	94	\$46
SIDURI Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2007 Intense and structured, supple and balanced, with full-bodied spice, wild berry and blackberry fruit that's focused and expansive, gaining depth and complexity.	94	\$49
SINE QUA NON Pinot Noir California Over & Out 2005 Pushes ripeness to the edge of extreme, yet pulls it off, delivering a supple, elegant, polished array of ripe plum, black cherry, wild berry, cola, sassafras and cedary oak.	94	\$75
W.H. SMITH WINES Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Marimar Estate Vineyard 2007 Offers wonderful earthy complexity, with pretty toasty oak, dried currant and black cherry fruit that's supple, elegant, well-proportioned and full-bodied.	94	\$48
TALLEY Pinot Noir Arroyo Grande Valley Rosemary's Vineyard 2006 Intense and powerful, full-blown and deeply flavored. The flavors keep building, centered around ripe cherry, raspberry and wild berry, with tightly focused mineral and pebble notes.	94	\$70

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
JOSEPH SWAN Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Cuvée de Trois 2007 Offers great balance and purity of flavor, depth and complexity, with spicy wild berry, black cherry, mineral, anise and spice. Full-bodied, fresh and lively. The finish sails on.	93	\$28
PARAISO Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands 2007 Serves up a trim, flavorful band of ripe cherry, wild berry and strawberry jam that's elegantly styled and well-structured. The long, complex finish echoes anise and mineral.	92	\$25
ROESSLER Pinot Noir Sonoma County Red Label 2007 Rich and layered, offering loamy earth, black cherry and wild berry fruit that's supple, full-bodied, creamy and long, with fleshy tannins.	92	\$28
SIDURI Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2007 Exhibits a complex, concentrated mix of berry, floral, lavender, spice and mineral notes that are well-distributed, full-bodied and polished, fanning out nicely on the finish.	90	\$20
BERINGER Pinot Noir Napa Valley 2007 Floral, spicy, medium-bodied and delicate, with fragrant black cherry, herb, spice and blackberry fruit that gains depth and complexity. Young and tight.	89	\$20
LYETH Pinot Noir Sonoma County Heritage Reserve 2006 Supple and juicy, delivering lively black cherry, blackberry and minty, spicy notes that are elegant, full-bodied and persistent on the finish.	89	\$19
MACMURRAY RANCH Pinot Noir Central Coast 2007 Ripe, floral black cherry and raspberry aromas are pure and zesty in this balanced and delicate Pinot, which shows just the right touch of acidity and tannins.	89	\$20
BOGLE Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2006 Refreshingly pure and complex, with ripe, vivid wild berry, raspberry and blackberry fruit that's firm at points and supple at others. Full-bodied, with wonderful balance and harmony.	87	\$13
CASTLE ROCK Pinot Noir Monterey County 2007 A solid effort, though not especially varietal. Firm, ripe plum and blackberry fruit is intense, full-bodied, concentrated and structured, with a chunky, fruity aftertaste.	87	\$12
CONCANNON Pinot Noir Central Coast Limited Release 2007 Offers a medium-bodied range of cherry and berry fruit that's floral and spicy, ending with a clean finish.	87	\$15
ESTANCIA Pinot Noir Monterey County Pinnacles Ranches 2007 Combines ripe, rich and fleshy Pinot fruit with hints of wild berry, raspberry, fresh earth, sage and mineral.	87	\$15
GREG NORMAN CALIFORNIA ESTATES Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County 2007 Refreshingly complex, elegant and stylish, with a tasty mix of mineral, black cherry, wild berry and floral notes.	87	\$15
CASTLE ROCK Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2007 Medium-bodied, with delicate plum and black cherry fruit shaded by touches of mint and herb.	86	\$12