

**PINOT NOIR — Medium Priced:
\$73-\$120/case (\$9.10-\$15/btl. full retail)**

CRESTON VINEYARDS, 1994 PASO ROBLES, \$106 (\$13.25) ★★★★★

Very soft in texture and medium full bodied; an excellent, medium priced Pinot Noir, with strawberry and ginger flavors, with modest length. Fine value. [1996-1997] 805.238.7398



ELK COVE VINEYARDS, 1994 WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON, \$96 (\$12) ★★★★★

Light-medium red color, with some haziness. A delicately styled Pinot Noir, with elegant black currant, cranberry and floral flavors. It is crisp, medium bodied and lightly tannic on the finish. Excellent. [1996-1997] 503.985.7760

HANNA, 1994 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$120 (\$15) ★★★★★+

Grapey and youthful, with intense fresh berry flavors, good balance and a medium length finish. [1996] 707.575.3330

KENDALL-JACKSON, 1994 VINTNER'S RESERVE, CALIFORNIA, \$120 (\$15) ★★★★★

Fruity and floral in flavor, this is a medium weight, well balanced wine, with raspberry and toast flavors, and a hint of tannin on the finish. Fine value. Best version of this wine we have tasted from K-J. [1996-1997] 707.544.4000

PEDRONCELLI, 1993 DRY CREEK VALLEY, \$80 (\$10) ★★★★★

An excellent Pinot Noir at the price. It is distinct in character (cherry, with overtones of ginger and clove), medium full bodied and balanced, with a hint of tannin. The best version of this wine in years from Pedroncelli. 20% whole berry fermented. Unfined. [1996-1997] 800.836.3894



**PINOT NOIR — High Priced:
\$121-\$200/case (\$15.10-\$25/btl. full retail)**

ACACIA, 1994 CARNEROS, \$152 (\$19) ★★★★★+

Full and ripe, with good depth and light tannins; an excellent Pinot, with ripe berry, toasted oak, ginger, and herb flavors. Long finish. Fine quality. Best Pinot Noir from Acacia in years. 13,400 cases. [1996-1999] 707.254.4200

CAMBRIA, 1994 JULIA'S VINEYARD, SANTA MARIA VALLEY, \$180 (\$22.50) ★★★★★+

Full bodied and smoothly textured, this is a stylish Pinot Noir, with clove, pepper, oak and raspberry flavors, very good balance and a long, lightly tannic finish. Excellent. [1996-1998] 805.937.1777

DEHLINGER

• **1993 GOLDRIDGE VINEYARD, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$136 (\$17)** ★★★★★

• **1993 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$176 (\$22)** ★★★★★

Goldridge, a first release (1,500 cases), is available to restaurants only. It is full bodied and finely flavored (berry, clove, mint, violet), with a long, crisp finish. The standard bottling is richer: a wine with intense cherry and raspberry jam flavors, with overtones of ginger and mint. 2,100 cases. [1996-1998] 707.823.2378

KING ESTATE 1993 OREGON, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★

A medium full bodied, stylish Pinot Noir, with intense smoky oak, raspberry, herb and rose petal flavors and a long, mildly tannic finish. Excellent. 22,000 cases. [1996-1999] 800.884.4441

LA CREMA

- 1994 SONOMA COUNTY, \$132 (\$16.50) ★★★★★
- 1994 SONOMA RESERVE, SONOMA COUNTY, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★

The Sonoma County version is full and supple, with floral, berry-like flavors and light tannins. The Sonoma Reserve has finer character and some new oak character. It is excellent. [1996-1998] 707.544.4000

LAURIER, 1994 SONOMA COUNTY, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

Full bodied, supple and toasty-oaky in style, with ripe, berry-like fruitiness and plenty of new oak. Long finish. Can be aged a bit. Excellent. [1996-1998] 209.538.3131

SAINTSBURY, 1994 CARNEROS, \$152 (\$19) ★★★★★+

Supple and ripe, in a full style. This is an excellent Pinot Noir, with smooth texture, fresh strawberry and ginger flavors and a long finish. 18, 227 cases. [1996-1998] 707.252.0592

STEELE, 1994 BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★

Slightly toasty in flavor, this is a delicious wine, with very good balance, moderate richness and complex flavors (ripe berry, smoky oak, tobacco) and a long finish. Excellent. 900 cases. [1996-1997] 707.279.0123

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS, 1993 NAPA VALLEY, CARNEROS, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★+

A wonderful, 1993 Pinot Noir, with fleshy texture, full body and elegant plum, raspberry, rose-like flavors, with vanilla and oak overtones. Long, smooth finish. Excellent. 20% whole berries, aged 10 months in French oak barrels (33% new). 1,861 cases. [1996-1997] 707.253.7153

VILLA MT. EDEN, 1994 GRAND RESERVE, BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD, SANTA MARIA VALLEY, \$136 (\$17) ★★★★★

Supple and luscious, in a medium full style. The wine has good fruit intensity and character, with overtones of cherry, raspberry and clove. Long, lightly tannic finish. Excellent. [1996-1998] 707.963.9100

**PINOT NOIR — Expensive:
\$201/case & Up (\$25.10/btl. & Up full retail)**

BERNARDUS, 1993 BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, \$108/6 (\$27) ★★★★★

A toasty, medium full style of Pinot Noir, displaying elegant fruity, floral varietal flavors and layers of complex, spicy, woody overtones. It is well balanced and long on the finish. Excellent. 1,200 cases. [1996-1997] 800.223.2533

DOMAINE DROUHIN, 1993 OREGON, \$122/6 (\$30.50) ★★★★★+

Full bodied, round and mildly tannic, a wine with excellent flavor and a long, long finish. Fine quality. [1996-1997] 503.864.2700

HARTFORD COURT

- **1994 DUTTON RANCH-SANCHIETTI VINEYARD, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$150/6 (\$37.50)** ★★★★★
- **1994 ARRENDELL VINEYARD, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$170/6 (\$42.50)** ★★★★★

FIRST RELEASES. These are impressive debut wines from Artisans & Estates. Both produced in tiny amounts (400 cases each), they show two of Pinot Noir's myriad personalities: The Dutton-Sanchiotti is softer and more forward in style, yet with plenty of richness and evident toasted oak; the Arrendell bottling is firmer and crisper, with better balance and length. [1997-1999] 707.887.1532 [label pg. 21]

SAINTSBURY, 1993 RESERVE, CARNEROS, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★

Full bodied and very intensely flavored, this is a fleshy, ripe wine, with raspberry jam, strawberry, ginger and humus flavors. Very long finish. Exceptional. [1996-1998] 707.252.0592

Only recommended wines are included here; most with comments.