

Pinot Noir

Familiar producers win honors
along with some rising stars

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Is 2008 the best vintage for Oregon Pinot Noir ever? We won't bother getting into that debate, but those wines on store shelves right now are generally superb, at least according to our judging of Northwest Pinot Noirs.

And not just in Oregon. The top wine in our competition of 170 Pinot Noirs actually came from north of the 49th parallel. But the vast majority of our top wines came from Oregon's Willamette Valley, where Pinot Noir makes up more than 50 percent of the total tonnage each year. And the 2008 vintage was one to remember. It was a cool spring and summer, and average yields were barely 2 tons per acre for Pinot Noir, low even by Oregon standards. Growers finally got a break late in the season with little rainfall and enough sun to ripen the grapes to near perfection.

This has left fans and critics alike raving about the 2008 wines, which are quickly selling out.

Of the 24 wines that earned our top "Outstanding" rating, 18 were from 2008.

Amid the top wines, we see many familiar longtime producers, including Chehalem, Erath, Sokol Blosser, Solena, Owen Roe and Henry Estate. We also found some emerging stars, including J. Daan, Le Cadeau, Dukes and Redman, all wineries in the Willamette Valley.

Erath, which was purchased by

Ste. Michelle Wine Estates in 2006, had three wines earning an "Outstanding" rating, all from small-production vineyard-designated bottlings. And Le Cadeau, whose estate vineyard is on Parrett Mountain near Newberg, had two wines amid our top picks.

We tasted wines from all four regions of the Pacific Northwest, and each had at least one wine among the top 24, showing the adaptability of the notoriously fickle grape.

Our judges for this competition were: Kate Michaud, winemaker for Covey Run; Winnie Alberg, a wine judge from Ellensburg, Wash.; Kerry Norton, winemaker for Columbia Winery; Dave Seaver, Wine Press Northwest tasting panelist; Ken Robertson, Wine Press Northwest columnist; and Bob Woehler, Wine Press Northwest's tasting editor. It was held at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick in mid-February.

Here are the wines:

OUTSTANDING

La Frenz \$32 CDN
2008 100 Series Reserve Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley Jeff Martin has been setting the bar higher not only in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley but also the entire Northwest since arriving in the mid-1990s. He's now established himself as one of the finest winemakers anywhere, and this suave Pinot Noir reveals his versatility with a broad range of varieties. This wine opens with aromas of black cherries and spicy chocolate. It further shows its greatness on the palate with subtle flavors of alluring red and black fruit and a rich palate, all backed with subtle acidi-

WINE RATINGS

All rated wines are tasted blind then placed in the following categories:

Outstanding

These wines have superior characteristics and should be highly sought after.

Excellent

Top-notch wines with particularly high qualities.

Recommended

Delicious, well-made wines with true varietal characteristics.

Best Buy!

A wine that is \$15 or under.

Prices are suggested retail and should be used as guidelines. Prices are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted.

CDN: Canadian dollars.

ty and tannin. The complexity grows and crescendos on the lengthy finish. (500 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Chehalem Wines \$44

2008 Ridgecrest Pinot Noir, Ribbon Ridge Harry Peterson-Nedry set his roots in rich Willamette Valley soil when he began planting Pinot Noir on Ribbon Ridge in 1980. In the three decades since, he has established himself as one of the northern Willamette Valley's most important figures, pushing quality and definition in his beloved Pinot Noir. These grapes came from his original plantings in the Northwest's smallest appellation. Aromas of wild strawberries, caramel and tobacco leaf draw you into flavors of raspberries, rhubarb and hints of new leather. Bright acidity and silky tannins allow the fruit to sashay to a beautiful finish. (592 cases, 12.7% alc.)

Erath Winery \$50

2008 Leland Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Winemaker Gary Horner is taking one of Oregon's oldest producers to greater levels of excellence. Leland Vineyard near Oregon City has been a staple for Erath for more than two decades, and in Horner's hands, its grapes rise to the pinnacle of quality. This opens with complex aromas of cinnamon, raspberries, cherries and chocolate. On the palate, the flavors include classic notes of high-toned red fruit with hints of oak. It's the velvety, ethereal texture that raises this wine above others. (420 cases, 13% alc.)

Erath Winery \$50

2008 Prince Hill 777 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills This wine not only is from one of winemaker Gary Horner's favorite vineyards, but it also is all crafted from the 777 Dijon clone. It is not often thought of as a version of Pinot Noir that can stand alone, but it is so beautiful and alluring in this particular bottling. It opens with aromas of fresh raspberries, strawberries, violets, hazelnuts and Graham crackers, followed by plush, delicious flavors of

TASTING RESULTS **pinot noir**



wild strawberries and bright red cherries, all backed with smooth, elegant and understated tannins. (214 cases, 13.5% alc.)

J. Daan Wine Cellars \$20

2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Justin and Megan Van Zanten own this small winery in the Yamhill County town of Carlton. They produce three different Pinot Noirs, with this being their largest production. It uses grapes from Croft-Williamson and Apolloni vineyards and is a superb example of Oregon Pinot Noir. It opens with subtle aromas of raspberries, cherries and flowers with a hint of mocha. On the palate, it leads with a rich entry that gives way to a velvety midpalate of ripe red fruit and an elegant, dream-like finish. (450 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Le Cadeau Vineyard \$47

2008 Équinoxe Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains Tom and Deb Mortimer farm in a rocky area atop Parrett Mountain near Newberg, Ore., a distinctive area in the northern Willamette Valley that could one day become a separate appellation. This wine cer-

tainly helps make a case for that, thanks to its aromas of spicy red cherries and hints of oak, followed by flavors of black cherries, racy cranberries, black pepper, dark chocolate and sweet, mild tannins on the finish. (196 cases, 14.1% alc.)

Aubichon Cellars \$38

2009 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley This winery in the Yamhill County town of Dundee is a collaboration between Le Cadeau's Tom Mortimer and winemaker Jim Sanders. This new release is a gorgeous wine with aromas of pomegranates, cherries, strawberries and French vanilla. It's beautifully complex on the palate with flavors of Rainier cherries, ripe strawberries and even a hint of blueberries. Mild tannins provide harmonious balance to this elegant wine. (251 cases, 14.5% alc.)

Erath Winery \$50

2008 Prince Hill 115 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills This is one of four Pinot Noirs that Erath crafts from Prince Hill, so you get the feeling winemaker Gary Horner thinks the vineyard is more than a little special. This

wine is made exclusively from the Dijon 115 clone, a version of Pinot Noir that tends to reveal darker, more powerful fruit. This wine offers elegant aromas of cherries, raspberries and vanilla, followed by beautifully balanced flavors of Rainier cherries and cranberries, all backed up with bright acidity and refined tannins. (224 cases, 13% alc.)

Lake Chelan Winery \$25

2008 Estate Pinot Noir, Columbia Valley Washington's lone wine amid our top-rated Pinot Noirs is fairly unusual, as it's blended with 22% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Pinot Noir grapes come from the Lake Chelan AVA, while the Cab is from Rivers Bend Vineyard in the Yakima Valley. It would seem the Cab plays a small role in this wine, as it certainly didn't take away the Pinot's characteristics of cranberries and cherries. Smooth, silky tannins back up the bright red fruit and give way to a long, elegant finish. (497 cases, 13.7% alc.)

Mission Hill Family Estate \$20 CDN

2009 Five Vineyards Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley This line of wines from one of British



Columbia's most famous producers uses grapes from five distinctive vineyards in the Okanagan Valley, stretching from the U.S. border near Osoyoos to Kelowna in the center of the valley. The range of vineyards undoubtedly adds to the complexity of this wine, which reveals aromas of wildflowers and cherries, followed by fruit-laden flavors of cherries and raspberries. Elegant tannins and acidity provide all the necessary balance. (2,900 cases, 13% alc.)

Sokol Blosser Winery \$38
2008 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills The second generation has taken over this iconic winery in Oregon's Dundee Hills. The vineyard was planted beginning in 1971 by Bill Blosser and Susan Sokol Blosser, and today is run by siblings Alex and Alison Sokol Blosser. This superb wine is a tribute to this pioneering winery's relentless efforts for the past 40 years. It reveals aromas of violets, oregano and spices, followed by elegant flavors of cherries and red currants. The tannins are

firm yet silky. (6,308 cases, 14% alc.)

ADEA Wine Co. \$45
2008 Hawks View Vineyard Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains The Fisher family began planting Pinot Noir in 1990 and launched their winery five years later. From its winery in Gaston, ADEA now makes no fewer than seven Pinot Noirs. The grapes for this come from famed Hawks View, a 45-acre vineyard near the town of Sherwood. This wine shows restrained elegance from first whiff through the memorable finish. It opens with aromas of moist, mineral earth, cherries and even a hint of orange zest, followed by flavors of Rainier cherries, cranberries and nutmeg, all backed with plump, soft tannins. (164 cases, 14% alc.)

Anne Amie Vineyards \$35
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley After purchasing Chateau Benoit in the late 1990s, Oregon entrepreneur Robert Pamplin set about changing just about everything, including the name. Today, Anne Amie is well known for Pinot Noir, and winemaker

Thomas Houseman relied on no fewer than 13 vineyards to craft this elegant and complete wine. It opens with aromas of fresh cherries, pomegranates, cinnamon and just a whiff of smokiness. Bright, ripe red fruit lead on the palate, all backed with ample acidity and rustic texture. (2,600 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Carlton Cellars \$20
2008 Seven Devils Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Owner Dave Grooters pays tribute to the wild Oregon Coast in his various bottlings, and this affordable Pinot Noir was inspired by an area near Bandon on the southern coast. It opens with aromas of brown sugar, black cherries and wild strawberries, followed by a plush entry that gives way to flavors of sweet, smooth fruit and round, supple tannins. It's rich, dark, complex and a bit on the hedonistic side. (600 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Dukes Family Vineyards \$48
2008 Alyssa Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley This young winery takes advantage of estate grapes from its vineyards on the northern



end of the Eola-Amity Hills near the town of Amity. This wine honors owners Pat and Jackie Dukes' daughter. It is a beautiful wine with aromas of rose petals, strawberries and raspberries, followed by flavors of strawberries, candied cherries and even oatmeal cookies. (425 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Best buy!

Indian Creek Winery \$15
2008 Pinot Noir, Snake River Valley The least-expensive wine in our judging also was one of the best and is a tribute to the opportunities that await in Idaho's high-elevation vineyards. This wine offers aromas of violets, strawberries and Rainier cherries, followed by flavors of cranberries and red plums. It opens with bright elegant fruit that gives way to a rich midpalate and finish. (700 cases, 13.4% alc.)

Owen Roe \$42
2009 The Kilmore Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District Northwest wine lovers expect nothing less than exceptional wines from David O'Reilly. This is one of four Pinot Noirs he makes at Owen Roe, and he relies on fruit from three vineyards: Lenne, Merriman and Kalita.

This opens with aromas of strawberries, cinnamon and black cherry jam on toast, followed by flavors of dark cherries, raspberries and alluring spices, all backed with intense yet refined tannins. (206 cases, 15.1% alc.)

Redman Wines \$30
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Cathy and the late Bill Redman fell in love with Oregon Pinot Noir in 1978 during a tasting in Portland. In 2004, they decided to enter the industry, buying a hazelnut orchard on Ribbon Ridge and replanting it with vines between 2005 and 2007. This is one of two Pinot Noirs they produced, both from estate fruit. Scott Schull of Raptor Ridge made this wine after Bill was stricken with cancer. It opens with aromas of bright cherries and a hint of smokiness, followed by flavors loaded with raspberries, cherries and blackberries. It's reticent at first but blossoms into a rich and ripe wine through the complex and lengthy finish. (420 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Soléna Estate \$50
2008 Hyland Vineyard Pinot Noir, McMinnville Bordeaux-trained winemaker

Laurent Montalieu is one of Oregon's best and most respected winemakers, and his fingerprints can be found on the wines of 25 different wineries. In 2007, he and wife Danielle purchased Hyland, a 100-acre vineyard first planted in 1972. This opens with aromas of exotic spices, cranberries and lavender, followed by flavors of ripe cherries, sweet herbs and cocoa powder on the finish. (300 cases, 13.7% alc.)

Henry Estate \$30
2006 Barrel Select Pinot Noir, Umpqua Valley It should come as no surprise that this is the top Pinot Noir from Southern Oregon, as the Henry family has been crafting superb wines since the 1970s. Scott Henry brought his family from California in 1972 and began planting grapes, including Pinot Noir. His son, Scotty, oversees winemaking duties. This superb offering opens with aromas of rose hips, cherries and cedar shavings, followed by bright flavors of Rainier and Bing cherries with elegant acidity and moderate tannins that yield to the fruit. (700 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Le Cadeau Vineyard \$47
2008 Rocheux Pinot Noir, Chehalem



Mountains The grapes for this wine come from the rocky side of Tom and Deb Mortimer's vineyard atop Parrett Mountain in the northern Willamette Valley. Grapes do not grow easily here, and the vines' struggle focuses intensity and complexity in the wine. This reveals aromas of boysenberries, black cherries, black olives and even a whisper of fudge, followed by supple flavors of red and black fruit, hints of herbs and beautifully balanced tannins. (205 cases, 13.9% alc.)

Burrowing Owl Estate Winery \$30 CDN
2009 Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley Between the high-quality wines, estate vineyard, restaurant and resort accommodations, Burrowing Owl has created a wine experience like no other. The 140-acre vineyard and winery are just over the U.S. border in the scenic southern Okanagan Valley. This Pinot Noir is nothing short of remarkable, opening with aromas of black raspberries, lavender, spices and vanilla, followed by intense flavors of pomegranates, raspberries, cherries and cloves. A sprinkle of cocoa powder enhances the

lengthy finish. (1,050 cases, 14.5% alc.)

Brandborg Vineyard & Winery \$38
2008 Ferris Wheel Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir, Umpqua Valley Terry and Sue Brandborg moved from San Francisco to the hamlet of Elkton, Ore., with the intention of crafting great Pinot Noir. This sublime example comes from their estate vineyard high in the hills above Elkton. It opens with aromas of black olives, cherries and hints of chocolate, followed by plush flavors of boysenberries, blueberries and cherries. Hints of sweet herbs and moderate tannins balance the ample fruit through the lengthy finish. (280 cases, 13.3% alc.)

Summerhill Pyramid Winery \$30 CDN
NV Cipes Rosé Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley The lone sparkling wine in our competition is a superb offering from Steve Cipes' Kelowna, B.C., winery and pyramid. He stores his wines in his scale model of the Cheops Pyramid, which he believes ages the wine differently because of its energy. His proof is in this bottle. The bubbly is delicious, with aromas of fresh strawberries and pie cherries,

followed by clean, tart flavors of strawberries. (750 cases, 12% alc.)

EXCELLENT

Tyee Wine Cellars \$32
2008 Estate Barrel Select Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley This longtime Corvallis winery has long been known for its distinctive Pinot Noirs. Second-generation winemaker Merrilee Buchanan Benson has crafted a superb wine with aromas of Rainier cherries and raspberries, along with flavors of cranberries, pomegranates and bright cherries. (100 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Carabella Vineyard \$37
2008 Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains Using grapes from the 58-acre estate vineyard on Parrett Mountain, winemaker Mike Hallock has crafted a superior Pinot Noir with aromas of ripe strawberries, leather, vanilla and cedar shavings, followed by succulent flavors of ripe fruit, a hint of tar and moderate tannins. (650



cases, 14.5% alc.)

Duck Pond Cellars \$20
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley One of the larger production levels of Oregon Pinot Noir, this also is an affordable favorite from a Dundee producer. This opens with lovely aromas of white pepper, lilac, strawberries and cedar, followed by rich, spicy flavors of cherries. It's all backed with bright acidity and modest tannins. (18,000 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Willamette Valley Vineyards \$100
2008 O'Brien Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills CEO Jim Bernau honors Elton Vineyard owners Dick and Betty O'Brien with this remarkable Pinot Noir. It shows off aromas of violets, cinnamon Graham crackers, raspberries and spices, followed by flavors of rich dark cherries, black raspberries and a hint of oak. (92 cases, 13.5% alc.)

3 Fools \$22
2008 Fools Gold Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley The 3 Fools are now two — Derek Whiteside and Barry Glassman — who craft their wines in Monmouth, Ore. They secured

grapes from Temperance Hill, Dunn Forest and Rainbow End vineyards and crafted a wine with aromas of cherry blossoms, violets, cinnamon, cherries and vanilla, followed by flavors of pomegranates, cherries and a hint of black tea in the finish. (190 cases, 13.1% alc.)

Erath Winery \$47
2008 Knight's Gambit Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills Knight's Gambit, a vineyard in the Dundee Hills, was planted in 1988, with additional vines added in 2001. This reveals aromas of slate, pie cherries, boysenberries and forest floor, followed by pleasurable flavors of silky cherries and blueberries. (198 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Hard Row to Hoe \$29
NV Pinot Noir, Lake Chelan Winemaker Judy Phelps blended the 2008 and 2009 vintages to create a rare Washington Pinot Noir, all from grapes grown on the south shore of Lake Chelan. This opens with aromas of plums, raspberries, leather and earth, followed by flavors of strawberries, black cher-

ries and blood oranges. (300 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Redman Wines \$40
2009 Redman Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir, Ribbon Ridge Located in the smallest appellation in the Pacific Northwest — Ribbon Ridge is just 3,350 acres in size — Redman is producing superb wines from estate grapes. This opens with aromas of sweet spices, lavender and blueberries, followed by zesty flavors of cranberries backed with velvety tannins. (288 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Brooks Wines \$35
2008 Janus Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley In 2004, Jimi Brooks died at the too-young age of 38, leaving the winery that bears his name to his son Pascal, now 15. The wines are made by Chris Williams, who carries on Jimi's legacy of superb Pinot Noir. This is the flagship wine for Brooks, and it is delicious, opening with aromas of red plums, dark cherries and hints of smoke. On the palate are clean, bright, approachable flavors of red fruit backed with



elegant tannins. (1,200 cases, 13.4% alc.)

De Ponte Cellars \$38

2008 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills The Baldwin family purchased this vineyard in 1999 in the Dundee Hills near the town of Dayton and launched its winery two years later. Winemaker Isabelle Dutartre has been crafting superb wines since that inaugural vintage. This reveals aromas of salmonberries, cranberries and cedar, followed by flavors of cherries, blueberries, cranberries and black tea. (1,188 cases, 14.1% alc.)

Soléna Estates \$40

2008 Zena Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills Winemaker Laurent Montalieu reaches into the southern Eola-Amity Hills for this elegant vineyard-designated wine. It opens with aromas of lavender, cherries and vanilla, followed by warm, delicious flavors of raspberries, cherries and shaved chocolate. (100 cases, 13.7% alc.)

Torii Mor Winery \$40

2008 Chehalem Mountains Select Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains Burgundian

Jacques Tardy has been making Oregon wine for more than two decades and makes no fewer than 10 Pinot Noirs for this Dundee Hills winery. This wine from the nearby Chehalem Mountains opens with aromas of chocolate-covered cherries and flavors of raspberries, cherries and cream. It's a complex yet easy-drinking wine with smooth tannins and just the right amount of acidity. (237 cases, 13.4% alc.)

Willamette Valley Vineyards \$45

2008 Hannah Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Winemaker Forrest Klafke crafts this wine from vineyards adjacent to Tualatin near Forest Grove, and it is one of his finest wines. It opens with aromas of cranberries, cherry blossoms and spices, followed by ripe flavors of cherries and red currants. Its silky texture makes it an easy wine to love. (96 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Benton-Lane Winery \$26

2009 Estate Grown Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Winemaker Chris Mazepink uses grapes from the 140-acre estate vineyard near Monroe, Ore. This is one of the larger bottlings of Pinot Noir and opens with aromas of moist earth, leather and spices, followed by flavors of strawberries and raspberries, backed with firm tannins. (16,760 cases, 13.55% alc.)

Carlton Hill Wine Co. \$50

2008 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District David Polite owns this 10-acre vineyard in the vaunted Yamhill-Carlton District and produces superb wines. This wine, which sells out quickly, opens with spicy aromas of cherries and pomegranates, followed by flavors of plump, ripe cherries, cranberries and raspberries. Moderate tannins and bright acidity back the harmonious fruit. (94 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Clay Hill \$26

2009 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills This second label for De Ponte Cellars near the town of Dayton is a delicious and relatively affordable Pinot Noir. This opens with subtle aromas of cherries and sweet spices, followed by flavors of black cherries, plums and vanilla bean. It's a beautiful wine with big flavors and easy tannins. (288 cases, 14.1% alc.)

Erath Winery \$45

2008 Prince Hill Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills Founder Dick Erath planted this vineyard in 1983, and 27 of its 34 acres are Pinot Noir. It's a favorite site for Gary Horner, who made four different vineyard-designated wines from the 2008 vintage. This is a youthful and spicy wine with aromas of violets and cranberries, followed by flavors of cherries and vanilla, all backed with just-right tannins. (563 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Le Cadeau Vineyard \$47

2008 Côte Est Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains The grapes for this wine come from the cooler eastern side of Le Cadeau on Parrett Mountain. It shows off aromas of caramel and cherries, followed by flavors of ripe red fruit and cinnamon. It's all backed with ample acidity and gentle tannins. (351 cases, 13.9% alc.)

Mt. Hood Winery \$25

2007 Pinot Noir, Columbia Gorge The cooler Columbia Gorge holds the poten-

tial for growing great Pinot Noir, and the Bickford family's operation south of Hood River, Ore., is ample evidence. This wine opens with suave aromas of violets, raspberries, cola nut and vanilla. It's bursting with flavors of raspberries, cherries and even Asian pears. Bright acidity and mild tannins bring out the best in this wine. (500 cases, 13.2% alc.)

The Four Graces \$42

2008 Reserve Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills Winemaker Laurent Montalieu crafted this wine using grapes from the estate Black Family Vineyard, a 110-acre site in the Dundee Hills. This wine opens with elegant aromas of violets, cherries and cedar shavings, followed by flavors of strawberries and spices. It's a smooth, elegant and, dare we say, graceful wine. (1,200 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Wapato Point Cellars \$32

2008 Clos CheValle Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir, Lake Chelan High above the south shore of Lake Chelan on Bear Mountain is the 100-acre Clos CheValle Vineyard, where winemaker Jonathan Kludt got the grapes for this wine. It opens with aromas of cherries, vanilla and minerals, followed by flavors of strawberries, pie cherries and cinnamon. It's a smooth wine with bright acidity and well-integrated tannins. (220 cases, 12.7% alc.)

Winter's Hill Vineyard \$39

2008 Cuvée du Vigneron Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills The Gladhart family has farmed its land near Lafayette, Ore., for a half-century and has been crafting wine from its 35 acres of vines since 1998. This Pinot Noir offers hints of spices on the nose, as well as notes of raspberries and cherries. On the palate, this smooth, plush wine provides flavors of violets, cherries, black olives and vanilla. (112 cases, 14.5% alc.)

Airlie Winery \$20

2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Mary Olson purchased this winery in 1997 and focuses on wines that are high in quality and easy on the wallet. This nicely priced Pinot Noir opens with huge aromas of strawberries and cherries, followed by flavors of raspberries, molasses, Graham crackers and spices. (1,414 cases, 12.8% alc.)

Amity Vineyards \$35

2008 Amity Estate Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley For nearly four decades, Myron Redford has been passionate about Oregon Pinot Noir, and this wine from estate grapes reveals a powerful elegance that is the hallmark of Amity wines. It opens with aromas of ripe raspberries, cranberries and vanilla bean, followed by long, complex, approachable flavors of ripe cherries and red currants. (200 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Brandborg Vineyard & Winery \$22

2008 Bench Lands Pinot Noir, Oregon Terry Brandborg's least-expensive Pinot Noir uses grapes from in and around tiny Elkton, Ore., in the northern Umpqua Valley. The aromas of raspberries and strawberries and flavors of bright cherries and high-toned red berries caused us to wonder (before we knew the source) whether this wine was from the Dundee Hills, something we consider a high

compliment. (3,348 cases, 13.3% alc.)

De Ponte Cellars \$55
2008 Estate Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills
 Winemaker Isabelle Dutartre crafted this wine from estate grapes, and is just now emerging from its shell and has yet to fully reveal itself. It opens with youthful notes of black cherries and violets and offers flavors of delicious cherries and hints of oak with a touch of mocha on the finish. We'll be interested in seeing where this is in another year. (450 cases, 14.1% alc.)

Erath Winery \$50
2008 Prince Hill Pommard Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills
 The Pommard clone of Pinot Noir has been a workhorse in Oregon for the better part of four decades. The grapes for this wine come from a vineyard near founder Dick Erath's home in the Dundee Hills, and it reveals classic aromas of lavender, vanilla and strawberries, followed by long, rich flavors of ripe raspberries, cherries and minerally earth. (230 cases, 13% alc.)

King Estate \$55
2008 Backbone Pinot Noir, Oregon
 Using grapes from five vineyards, one of Oregon's largest wineries has crafted a delicious small-lot wine. It opens with aromas of raspberries, cherries and vanilla, followed by bright flavors of cranberries and cherries, along with hints of smoke. (205 cases, 13% alc.)

Luminous Hills \$35
2009 Estate Astra Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District
 This vineyard is high in the hills of the Yamhill-Carlton AVA of the northern Willamette Valley, and this wine is a blend of the 667 and 115 clones of Pinot Noir. The resulting wine shows off aromas of pie cherries, red berries and rose petals, followed by gorgeous flavors of red currants and crushed walnuts backed with sturdy tannins. (98 cases, 15% alc.)

Maysara Winery \$25
2009 Jamsheed Pinot Noir, McMinnville
 Moe Momtazi operates a large vineyard and nursery operation in the McMinnville AVA, and this is his winemaking daughter's flagship Pinot Noir. It opens with aromas of black cherries, black walnuts and hints of oak, followed by flavors of cherries and blackberries. Modest yet lingering tannins provide this wine with restrained elegance. (4,000 cases, 13.7% alc.)

Stoller Vineyards \$25
2008 JV Estate Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills
 With 176 acres of vines in the Dundee Hills, Stoller Vineyards has developed into one of the appellation's most important plantings. This bottling comes from "junior vines," thus the "JV" moniker. It's a youthful wine with inviting aromas of violets, strawberries and new leather, followed by easy-drinking flavors of cherries and cranberries. (4,706 cases, 13.1% alc.)

Willamette Valley Vineyards \$45
2008 South Block Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
 This wine from our 2011 Oregon Winery of the Year uses grapes from a corner of the estate vineyard that was certified organic in 2007. The wine opens with a subtle nose of raspberries and cranberries, followed by rich, smooth flavors of red fruits backed

with hints of oak. (800 cases, 13.5% alc.)

ADEA Wine Co. \$45
2008 Cherry Grove Vineyard Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
 Cherry Grove Vineyard near the Yamhill County town of Gaston provides the grapes for this delicious Pinot Noir from the Fisher family. It opens with light aromas of cherries and shaved chocolate, followed by flavors of black cherries and vanilla. This is a big, rich style of wine with moderate tannins. (168 cases, 14% alc.)

Atticus Wine Cellars \$42
2008 Atticus Vineyard Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District
 Winemaker Scott Shull of Raptor Ridge crafted this wine from estate grapes near the town of Yamhill. This unveils aromas of alder smoke, raspberries, red currants and orange zest, followed by flavors of sweet black cherries and vanilla. Velvety tannins and zippy acidity provide background music for a symphony of flavors. (125 cases, 13.3% alc.)

Benton-Lane Winery \$26
2008 Estate Grown Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
 One of the larger bottlings of Oregon Pinot Noir, this wine from a top southern Willamette Valley winery is widely distributed across the United States. This wine opens with aromas of ripe raspberries and mushrooms, followed by flavors of white strawberries and a hint of oranges. It is a youthful and unrestrained wine that is refreshing to drink. (20,308 cases, 13.45% alc.)

Bridgeview Vineyards \$20
2008 Blue Moon Pinot Noir, Oregon
 Deep in Southern Oregon, Bridgeview has long been one of Oregon's largest producers. This affordable Pinot Noir delivers bright, fruity aromas and flavors of ripe red cherries and vanilla. It's a fairly big wine packed with fruit and backed with moderate tannins. (8,000 cases, 13% alc.)

Brooks Wines \$25
2009 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
 Winemaker Chris Williams pulls in grapes from all areas of the vast Willamette Valley to craft this bright, delicious Pinot Noir. It opens with aromas of cranberries and cherries that give way to flavors of Rainier cherries and just-ripe raspberries. Crisp acidity brightens the already high-toned fruit. (2,600 cases, 14.3% alc.)

Carlton Hill Wine Co. \$36
2008 Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District
 This winery near the town of Carlton, Ore., is famous for its crazy croquet tournaments, and this wine also is plenty of fun. It opens with aromas of sweet herbs, violets and cherries, which give way to flavors of bright red cherries, mint and cinnamon. Everything is backed by bright acidity and lean tannins. (420 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Challenger Ridge \$18
2008 Pinot Noir, Washington
 Based in the Skagit Valley town of Concrete, Wash., this winery is home to a 13-acre Pinot Noir vineyard. This is a classic Pinot Noir with aromas of cherries and red plums and plush flavors of cherries and chocolate. A rich midpalate is backed with well-integrated tannins. Be sure

to check out the winery's Woodinville tasting room. (103 cases, 13% alc.)

Firesteed Cellars \$16
2008 Pinot Noir, Oregon
 This is the largest-production wine in our judging — and the best value in Oregon. This opens with classic aromas of violets and gentle red fruit, followed by flavors of cherries, cranberries and even a touch of black licorice. It's a bright wine with gentle tannins. (45,000 cases, 12.3% alc.)

Best buy!
Indian Creek Winery \$15
2009 Pinot Noir, Snake River Valley
 Bill and Mui Stowe launched this winery near Kuna, Idaho, in 1982, and Bill has been responsible for nurturing the nascent Idaho wine industry. He is one of the few to have embraced Pinot Noir in the Snake River Valley for much of the past 30 years. This is a delicious and affordable wine with aromas of cherries and allspice and lingering flavors of raspberries and cranberries. (300 cases, 13.9% alc.)

Johan Vineyards \$28
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
 This small operation near Rickreall, Ore., uses estate and purchased fruit to craft this wine. It opens with aromas of black raspberries and cherries, followed by supple and elegant flavors of red and dark fruit. (396 cases, 13.3% alc.)

Kathken Vineyards \$25
NV Jolie's Juice Pinot Noir American Style Port, Willamette Valley
 Kathken Vineyards is in the Eola-Amity Hills near Salem and is producing a number of delicious wines. This is a somewhat rare fortified Pinot Noir, and it is a delicious treat. It opens with aromas of hazelnuts, plums and cherries and on the palate is delicious without being overly sweet. The alcohol is well integrated, and this should age quite well. (225 cases, 19% alc.)

Acrobat \$18
2009 Pinot Noir, Oregon
 The goal of this label for King Estate is to create a delicious Pinot Noir for under \$20. Mission accomplished. It opens with aromas of raspberries and pomegranates, which lead to flavors of dense cherries and ripe raspberries. Hints of chocolate meld with the moderate tannins. (18,500 cases, 13% alc.)

1789 Wines \$48
2008 Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains
 Isabelle Dutartre, winemaker for De Ponte Cellars, has created this label and named it after the year of the French Revolution in her native country. It is a nubile wine with aromas of plums and boysenberries and flavors of rich berries backed with pretty tannins. (165 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Solena Estates \$60
2008 Domaine Danielle Laurent Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District
 Using grapes from his estate vineyard, owner/winemaker Laurent Montalieu has crafted an attractive and mouth-filling wine that opens with opulent aromas of ripe strawberries and sandalwood, followed by flavors of white strawberries and

black cherries. (300 cases, 14.5% alc.)

Westport Winery \$31
2008 Pinot Noirvana, Washington This wine honors Aberdeen native Kurt Cobain of Nirvana fame and helps to fund a teen center in his home town. The grapes come from the Yakima Valley, and winemaker Dana Roberts has done a great job crafting a Pinot Noir with young aromas of cherries and raspberries and a palate loaded with rich, ripe fruit. (201 cases, 12% alc.)

Winter's Hill Vineyard \$29
2008 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills This winery near Lafayette, Ore., has always crafted Pinot Noirs at affordable prices. Winemaker Delphine Gladhart has put together a wine that opens with aromas of Van cherries and violets, followed by flavors of black cherries and sweet spices. It's a plush wine with a bit of chocolate in the finish. (600 cases, 13% alc.)

Alexana Winery \$75
2008 Signature Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills Longtime Yamhill County winemaker Lynn Penner-Ash produces the wines for this young winery whose estate grapes come from the Dundee Hills and sold at their tasting room in Carlton. This is Burgundian in style, with aromas of earth, leather, coffee and olives, followed by flavors of minerals, blueberries and white strawberries. (140 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Atticus Wine Cellars \$24
2007 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley This elegant Pinot Noir uses grapes from Yamhill Springs and Hawks View vineyards. The resulting wine shows off aromas of strawberries and Rainier cherries, followed by lingering flavors of dense cherries, red plums and bittersweet chocolate. (275 cases, 12.8% alc.)

Baillie-Grohman Estate Winery \$25 CDN
2009 Estate Pinot Noir, British Columbia This winery in Creston, B.C., celebrates the life of a pioneer who arrived in the Kootenays in the 1880s to hunt mountain goats and attract settlers. This wine shows off elegant aromas of ripe raspberries and bright flavors of Rainier cherries, all backed with mild tannins. (105 cases, 13.3% alc.)

Benson Vineyards Estate Winery \$23
2008 Pinot Noir, Lake Chelan The Benson family has created quite a destination winery on the north shore of Lake Chelan — and is producing some superb wines. This rare Washington Pinot Noir opens with aromas of coffee and bright red fruit, followed by flavors of plums, espresso and cherries. (270 cases, 13.6% alc.)

Bridgeview Vineyards \$25
2008 Reserve Pinot Noir, Southern Oregon René Eichmann crafts the wines for this family operation near the California border. This reserve-level wine reveals aromas of cherries, chocolate and a bit of orange zest, followed by rich flavors of cherries and spices. This is still pretty tightly wound and should further reveal itself in the next 12 to 24 months. (167 cases, 13% alc.)

Cana's Feast Winery \$20
2008 Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District

This winery in Carlton has become quite a destination, thanks to its Tuscan-inspired tasting room, bocce ball courts and restaurant. This Pinot Noir opens with aromas of plums, boysenberry and a nice bit of earthiness, followed by juicy flavors of cherries, berries and cinnamon. (265 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Chehalem Wines \$27
2008 3 Vineyard Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Using grapes from the estate Ridgecrest, Stoller and Corral Creek vineyards, Harry Peterson-Nedry and Mike Eyres have crafted a complex and complete wine. On the nose, it reveals aromas of strawberries, cracked pepper and cedar shavings, followed by flavors of currants, black tea and cranberries. (4,529 cases, 13.1% alc.)

David Hill Vineyards & Winery \$28
2008 Barrel Select Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Winemaker Jason Bull continues to build superb Pinot Noirs for this Forest Grove, Ore., producer. This wine opens with aromas of ripe cherries and pomegranates, followed by flavors of lingonberries, sweet cherries and hints of cinnamon. (600 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Erath Winery \$34
2008 Estate Selection Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Winemaker Gary Horner uses grapes from four vineyards, with the bulk coming from Knight's Gambit and Prince Hill. The resulting wine reveals aromas of boysenberries, blueberries and delicate oak, followed by flavors of cherries, vanilla and a hint of citrus. (4,920 cases, 13% alc.)

Gresser Vineyard \$28
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley This young producer in the Chehalem Mountains uses estate fruit to craft one wine: Pinot Noir. This focused effort has resulted in a wine that is rich in aromas of strawberries and raspberries and flavors of black cherries, red plums and moist earth. It is wonderfully balanced with bright acidity and modest tannins. (350 cases, 13.1% alc.)

Kyra Wines \$22
2008 Pinot Noir, Washington Owner Kyra Baerlocher brought in grapes from three areas of the state, including the Ancient Lakes region of the Columbia Valley, the Okanogan area to the north and the Columbia Gorge to the south. It's a delicious wine with aromas and flavors of ripe strawberries and hints of spice. (402 cases, 14.1% alc.)

LeVieux Pin \$35 CDN
2008 Adieu Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley This winery just across the border near Osoyoos, B.C., calls this "Adieu" because it is its last Pinot Noir. It's an elegant wine with aromas of cherries, strawberries and vanilla and rich flavors of ripe red fruit backed with mild tannins. (100 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Oak Bay Vineyard \$19 CDN
2007 Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley St. Hubertus near Kelowna, B.C., produces this wine, which reveals aromas of red plums, cranberries and cedar, followed by flavors of raspberries and leather. (1,000 cases, 12.8% alc.)

Oak Bay Vineyard \$19 CDN
2008 Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley In 2003,

PINOT NOIR

BY THE NUMBERS

For this article, we blind-tasted 170 Pacific Northwest Pinot Noirs, all submitted by wineries.

Here are a few facts:

- Out of 170 wines, 24 wines (14%) earned our top "Outstanding" rating, while 80 (47%) garnered an "Excellent" rating and 51 (30%) received a "Recommended" rating. Just 14 (8%) were rated "No medal" and not reviewed.

- We tasted wines from all four major Northwest regions.

- The average bottle price was \$34.32.

- The wines here represent 291,530 cases.

- The average alcohol was 13.59%.

- The wines came from 18 appellations, including: Ribbon Ridge, Chehalem

Mountains, Columbia Gorge, Dundee Hills, Eola-Amity Hills, McMinnville, Yamhill-Carlton

District, Willamette Valley, Umpqua Valley, Oregon, Naramata Bench, Okanagan Valley,

British Columbia, Columbia Valley, Lake Chelan, Puget Sound, Washington and

Snake River Valley.

- Of these, 61 came from the Willamette Valley.

- The wines came from five vintages: 2009 (26), 2008 (119), 2007 (19), 2006 (2) and 2004 (1). Three were nonvintage.

a wildfire that destroyed more than 200 homes in the Okanogan Valley also consumed this winery near Kelowna. The Gebert family has since rebuilt and produces this wine from its 26-acre Oak Bay Vineyard. It reveals aromas of lavender, cherry and violets and flavors of raspberries, cherries and hints of mushrooms. (1,000 cases, 12.9% alc.)

Ponzi Vineyards \$25

2009 Tavola Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Second-generation winemaker Luisa Ponzi crafted this wine from myriad vineyards in the northern Willamette Valley. It is a nice combination of fruit and hints of smokiness, with flavors of cherries, cranberries and raspberries. It's backed with modest tannins that give way to a fruit-laden finish. (6,423 cases, 13.7% alc.)

Sokol Blosser Winery \$50

2008 Estate Cuvée Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills Using grapes from vineyards planted between 1998 and 2000, winemaker Russ Rosner has crafted a wine that shows off fruit and oak, with aromas of cherries and chocolate and flavors of ripe berries and espresso.

**OREGON VINTNERS HOPE
'VERTICAL' IS ANOTHER 'SIDEWAYS'**

When the the Oscar-nominated film "Sideways" came out in 2004, it brought broad interest in Pinot Noir — and one line in the film did great damage to the California Merlot industry.

While the movie ostensibly was about two friends on a road trip and their failings as human beings, it was the first film to draw widespread interest in wine.

Soon after the movie became a huge hit, rumors began about a sequel that would take place in Oregon wine country. That became reality in December, when author Rex Pickett's sequel novel "Vertical" came out.

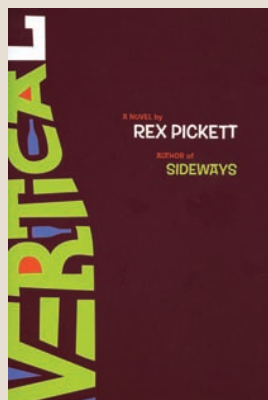
"Vertical" is set seven years later and is an elaborate parody on "Sideways" (book and movie). After the events that took place in the first book, Miles writes a novel called "Shameless" that becomes a hit movie. Meanwhile, Jack is divorced and out of work, and Miles' mom is an invalid. So Miles cooks up a plan to kidnap his mom from a nursing facility and take her and Jack to Oregon's International Pinot Noir Celebration.

As they drive up the coast, Miles and Jack commit increasing levels of debauchery, and their outrageous behavior causes laugh-out-loud problems.

In the end, it's story of redemption and closure.

And it probably will make a good movie. Can it provide the same kind of magic we saw seven years ago? Unlikely. Few sequels approach originals. And frankly, I don't know that "Vertical" is what the Oregon wine industry was hoping for. In the book, the IPNC comes off looking like a drunkfest rather than an exaltation of the Willamette Valley's glorious grapes. Pickett drops a lot of names in "Vertical," which I suppose is good for those wineries, but I will be shocked if any upcoming film will provide another "Sideways" effect.

— Andy Perdue



(650 cases, 14% alc.)

Torii Mor Winery \$50

2008 Hawks View Vineyard Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains Longtime Oregon winemaker Jacques Tardy uses grapes from one of the state's most coveted Pinot Noir vineyards. This wine opens with aromas of violets and cherries, followed by flavors of red plums and cranberries. (155 cases, 13.1% alc.)

Cathedral Ridge Winery \$32

2008 Dampier Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir, Columbia Gorge This Hood River, Ore., winery crosses the Columbia River to Underwood Mountain, where these vines live at 1,100 feet in elevation. This wine reveals aromas of plums, blueberries and pomegranates, as well as flavors of red currants, Rainier cherries and lively strawberries. (246 cases, 13.3% alc.)

David Hill Vineyards & Winery \$38

2008 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Contrary to popular belief, this winery is not named for Oregon politician David Hill (for whom nearby Hillsboro was named) but rather William David, who owned the hill the winery and vineyard are on. This reserve-level wine shows elegance in the nose with aromas of cherries and vanilla, followed by delicate and subtle flavors of bright red fruit. (300 cases, 13.8% alc.)

Henry Estate \$18

2008 Oregon Pinot Noir, Umpqua Valley Scotty Henry, son of winery founder Scott Henry, has put together a delicious and affordable wine that is best described as "consumer friendly." It is a straightforward Pinot Noir with aromas of cranberries and Dr Pepper, followed by easy-drinking flavors of cherries and raspberries. (3,000 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Honeywood Winery \$28

2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Started in 1933, Honeywood in Salem is the Northwest's oldest winery, and though it is best known for its fruit wines, it also makes delicious varietal wines. This Pinot Noir shows off alluring aromas of marionberries, raspberries and cherries, all backed with elegant oak. (385 cases, 13.3% alc.)

Le Cadeau Vineyard \$38

2009 Oregon "Red Label" Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains This winery with an estate vineyard on Parrett Mountain is one of the Oregon wine scene's up-and-coming stars. This luscious example of Pinot Noir unfolds on the nose with aromas of cherries, oak and spice, followed by flavors of ripe raspberries and smooth cherries that give way to a lengthy finish. (244 cases, 14.5% alc.)

Luminous Hills \$35

2009 Estate Lux Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District Relying on the Pommard and 777 clones of Pinot Noir, this young wine offers aromas of strawberries, sage, rose petals and restrained oak, followed by flavors of ripe strawberries backed with elegant tannins and bright acidity. (147 cases, 15% alc.)

O'Reilly's \$17

2009 Pinot Noir, Oregon This Pinot Noir

from Owen Roe is cherished by wine lovers looking for that right combination of quality and value. This offers aromas of pie cherries, red plums and a whisper of smoke, as well as flavors of Bing cherries, sweet tobacco, mint and milk chocolate. (7,000 cases, 14.1% alc.)

Redman Wines \$30

2009 Redman Vineyard Pinot Noir, Ribbon Ridge Ribbon Ridge is a fascinating little appellation in the northern Willamette Valley, whose grapes can result in a broad range of wines. This is on the delicate side, with aromas of rose petals, strawberries and blood oranges on the aromas and elegant red fruit flavors backed by mild tannins. (166 cases, 13.9% alc.)

Willamette Valley Vineyards \$35

2008 Founders' Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Winemaker Forrest Klaffke brought in grapes from a number of varieties throughout the Willamette Valley to craft this reserve-level Pinot Noir. It opens with aromas of cherries and light menthol, followed by stylish flavors of bright red fruit and even something that reminded us of a cherry Danish. (4,600 cases, 13% alc.)

Amity Vineyards \$30

2008 Bass Hill Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley Myron Redford and winemaker Darcy Pendergrass used grapes from this McMinnville AVA vineyard to craft a stylish and lively Pinot Noir. It is a gorgeous wine with aromas of rose petals, lingonberries and pomegranates, followed by juicy flavors of red berries and cherries, all backed with supple structure and delicate tannins. (116 cases, 13% alc.)

Cana's Feast Winery \$48

2008 Meredith Mitchell Vineyard Pinot Noir, McMinnville Winemaker Patrick Taylor uses grapes from one of Oregon's top vineyards for this bottling. Meredith Mitchell is a 25-acre vineyard in the underrated McMinnville AVA, and this wine opens with aromas of moist earth, leather and blood orange, followed by intense flavors of cherries and tobacco leaf. It's an absolutely fascinating wine. (328 cases, 13.6% alc.)

Nk'Mip Cellars \$30 CDN

2008 Qwam Qwmt Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley This winery just across the Canadian border is owned by the Osoyoos Band, and winemaker Randy Picton has turned it into one of the province's top producers. This Pinot opens with complex aromas of rose petals, pomegranates, sage and olives, followed by restrained flavors of pomegranates and cherries. (1,880 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Torii Mor Winery \$50

2008 La Colina Vineyard Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills This vineyard was planted in 1999 and supplies grapes to many top Willamette Valley producers. Winemaker Jacques Tardy has crafted a Pinot Noir with aromas of cranberries and cedar, followed by flavors of boysenberries, red currants and dried cherries. (165 cases, 13.5% alc.)

Wild Goose Vineyards \$20 CDN

2008 Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley Second-generation winemaker Hagen Kruger is best known for his world-class white wines, and his red wines are quite delicious in their own

right. This Pinot Noir opens with aromas of strawberries and blueberries, followed by flavors of cherries, plums and boysenberries. It's a lively and juicy wine. (200 cases, 12.8% alc.)

Atticus Wine Cellars \$34
2008 Select Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
 Two families came together to launch this Yamhill, Ore., winery, and they are crafting several delicious Pinot Noirs. This provides aromas of cranberries, pomegranates and vanilla coffee, followed by flavors of cherries and chocolate, all backed with sweet tannins and lingering acidity. (150 cases, 13.2% alc.)

Troon Vineyard \$15
2009 Trifecta Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
 This Southern Oregon producer brought in grapes from the Eola-Amity Hills and Willamette Valley and blended in just a touch of Zinfandel (3%). The resulting wine shows off aromas of cherries, olives and sweet herbs, followed by flavors of marionberries. Mild tannins provide all the structure needed. (600 cases, 13% alc.)

RECOMMENDED

Luminous Hills \$28
2009 Estate Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District, 357 cases, 15% alc.

King Estate \$27
2009 Signature Collection Pinot Noir, Oregon, 24,500 cases, 13% alc.

Willamette Valley Vineyards \$45
2008 Tualatin Estate Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 322 cases, 13.5% alc.

David Hill Vineyards & Winery \$45
2008 BlackJack Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 150 cases, 14.3% alc.

Redman Wines \$40
2008 Pinot Noir, Ribbon Ridge, 175 cases, 14.2% alc.

Stoller Vineyards \$40
2007 SV Estate Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills, 1,950 cases, 13.6% alc.

Torii Mor Winery \$35
2008 Deux Verres Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 467 cases, 13.4% alc.

Torii Mor Winery \$22
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 7015 cases, 13.5% alc.

Alexana Winery \$38
2007 Revana Vineyard Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills, 1665 cases, 13.5% alc.

David Hill Vineyards & Winery \$16
2008 Estate Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 800 cases, 13.6% alc.

Kettle Valley Winery \$26 CDN
2008 Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley, 1,210 cases, 14.1% alc.

Amity Vineyards \$50
2007 Winemaker's Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 240 cases, 14% alc.

Anam Cara Cellars \$30
2008 Nicholas Estate Pinot Noir,

Chehalem Mountains, 1,000 cases, 14% alc.

Carlton Cellars \$30
2008 Cape Lookout Pinot Noir, Oregon, 576 cases, 13.4% alc.

ADEA Wine Co. \$25
2008 Ann Sigrid Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 560 cases, 14% alc.

Atticus Wine Cellars \$34
2007 Select Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 230 cases, 12.75% alc.

Cathedral Ridge Winery \$26
2008 Pinot Noir, Columbia Valley, 368 cases, 13.8% alc.

Chehalem Wines \$44
2008 Stoller Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills, 595 cases, 13.2% alc.

Freja Cellars \$40
2006 Winemaker's Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 100 cases, 14% alc.

Henry Estate \$50
2004 Winemaker's Reserve Pinot Noir, Umpqua Valley, 100 cases, 13.5% alc.

Kettle Valley Winery \$35 CDN
2008 Hayman Pinot Noir, Naramata Bench, 80 cases, 15% alc.

Maysara Winery \$32
2008 Estate Cuvée Pinot Noir, McMinnville, 1,000 cases, 13.5% alc.

Merriman Wines \$50
2007 Estate Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District, 100 cases, 13.4% alc.

Whistling Dog Cellars \$24
2007 NSV Estate Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills, 415 cases, 13.5% alc.

Apolloni Vineyards \$28
2008 Estate Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 420 cases, 13.6% alc.

Benson Vineyards Estate Winery \$23
2007 Pinot Noir, Lake Chelan, 271 cases, 13.6% alc.

Benton-Lane Winery \$60
2008 Estate Grown First Class Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 740 cases, 13.75% alc.

Chateau Lorane \$25
2007 Organically Grown Pinot Noir, Oregon, 53 cases, 13.3% alc.

Emerson Vineyards \$30
2009 Avelina Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 170 cases, 13.3% alc.

Indian Creek Winery \$25
2008 Reserve Pinot Noir, Snake River Valley, 50 cases, 13.4% alc.

Johan Vineyards \$45
2008 Nils Reserve Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 330 cases, 12.8% alc.

Kettle Valley Winery \$35 CDN
2008 Reserve Pinot Noir, Okanagan Valley, 174 cases, 14.5% alc.

Montinore Estate \$35
2008 Graham's Block 7 Pinot Noir,

Willamette Valley, 250 cases, 13.6% alc.

Montinore Estate \$19
2009 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 9,000 cases, 13.9% alc.

Road 13 Vineyards \$23 CDN
2008 Pinot Noir, British Columbia, 1,533 cases, 12.8% alc.

Sweet Cheeks Winery \$23
2009 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 2,050 cases, 13% alc.

Agate Ridge Vineyard \$24
2007 Clonal Selection Pinot Noir, Rogue Valley, 201 cases, 12.2% alc.

Christopher Bridge Cellars \$23
2008 Satori Springs Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 295 cases, 13.3% alc.

Gresser Vineyard \$24
2007 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 160 cases, 13.9% alc.

Kramer Vineyards \$20
2008 Estate Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District, 149 cases, 13.5% alc.

Soléna Estates \$25
2008 Grande Cuvée Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 2,500 cases, 14.1% alc.

The Four Graces \$29
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 9,500 cases, 13.7% alc.

Torii Mor Winery \$40
2008 Eola-Amity Hills Select Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills, 237 cases, 13.6% alc.

Willamette Valley Vineyards \$100
2008 Fuller Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 66 cases, 13.5% alc.

ADEA Wine Co. \$35
2008 Deano's Pinot, Willamette Valley, 258 cases, 14% alc.

Bodhichitta Winery \$38
2008 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, 58 cases, 13.2% alc.

Kramer Vineyards \$35
2007 Rebecca's Reserve Pinot Noir, Yamhill-Carlton District, 101 cases, 13% alc.

Martin-Scott Winery \$23
2007 Pinot Noir, Columbia Valley, 46 cases, 15.6% alc.

Mount Baker Vineyards & Winery \$24
2009 Estate Pinot Noir, Puget Sound, 83 cases, 12.6% alc.

King Estate \$60
2008 Domaine Pinot Noir, Oregon, 1171 cases, 13% alc.

Le Cadeau Vineyard \$47
2008 Diversité Pinot Noir, Chehalem Mountains, 270 cases, 14.1% alc. 🍷

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