

california PINOTPHILIA

When the central character, Miles, in the hit movie, "Sideways," first extolled the virtues of Pinot Noir, U.S. supermarket sales of the variety jumped 18 percent. Sideways singlehandedly turned American wine drinkers from Merlot fanciers to Pinotphiles.

The Pinot Noir grape like the romantic relationships portrayed in the "Sideways" movie can be complex, elusive and difficult to grow. Yet many winemakers will make Pinot Noir because the resulting wines can reap a reward as great as the challenge. This noble red wine variety is ancient, described by Romans in 100 A.D. and cultivated in the Burgundy region of France as early as the 4th century. Pinot Noir is prone to genetic variation, and has more clones than any other variety. The University of California, Davis, has some 100 registered Pinot Noir clones. Pinot Noir embodies complexity and delicacy at the same time, outpouring with elaborate flavors that may be simply ravishing. The grape is well known for its fickleness and genetic changeability, making it a truly challenging varietals for winemakers to master.

sonoma coast

#1 WINE PRESS SERIES 'BLOCK 17' 2011

GLASS \$9.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$27.00 BOTTLE \$54.00

Pure Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir — rich, alluring and complex, yet still delicate in the mouth. To emphasize the essence of the growing region, rather than a microclimate or single vineyard, The Wine Press utilizes several lots of Pinot Noir grapes from up and down the Sonoma Coast. Then to lend further complexity, the cuvee was aged for 10 months in new French oak barrels. Classic berry, cherry and currant flavors, silky textures, balanced with spicy or floral tones.

sonoma county

#2 SIDURI 2012

GLASS \$14.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$42.00 BOTTLE \$84.00

A blend of 17 different lots of Pinot Noir from vineyards on Sonoma Mountain and in the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast. The wine shows bright red fruit, particularly on the nose...cherries and raspberries, hints of sandalwood, earth and herbs, the fruit from the Van der Kamp Vineyard provides many of these earthy flavors.

monterey

#3 CASTLEROCK 2012

GLASS \$10.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$30.00 BOTTLE \$60.00

Produced from grapes grown in Monterey County. The cooling air from Monterey Bay helps to produce a longer growing season for the grapes, with extra grape-time on the vines leading to a characteristic depth of flavor in the wine. Elegant and medium-bodied, offering aromas of cherry, tea and herbal spice. On the palate, the wine gives flavors of black cherry, plum and spice. It is smooth with a silky texture.

santa lucia highlands

#4 MORGAN '12 CLONES' 2012

GLASS \$15.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$45.00 BOTTLE \$90.00

From the finest vineyards of the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation, including Morgan's own organically farmed 'Double L' estate. Besides the 12 recognized clones of the Double L vineyard, two suitcase clones, Morgan LT and Morgan RC, sneak into this mix. Both clones found their way to Double L by mysterious, undocumented routes purportedly from La Tache and Romanee Conti in France. An amazingly vivid nose of cherry, eucalyptus and morning dew on wild fennel promises a stunning wine in this clonal combo from Morgan. Attractive and supple, the 2012 gives up pretty black cherry, spring flowers, and earthy, leathery notes with air.

arroyo seco

#5 HUG 'CEDAR LANE VINEYARD' 2011

GLASS \$10.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$30.00 BOTTLE \$60.00

Arroyo Seco, Monterey County, Hug's Cedar Lane Vineyard Pinot continues to be the most "Burgundian-style" wine in their portfolio. Its structure is lean and definitive, with all flavor components landing in harmony. There is a beam of floral, fruit and earth characteristics throughout that melds seamlessly into the body of the wine with fine and elegant tannins that caress the tongue.

paso robles

#6 ADELAIDA 'ESTATE' 2012

GLASS \$13.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$39.00 BOTTLE \$78.00

Aroma: tart cherries, cranberries, rosehip tea, sandalwood incense, potpourri. Flavor: cherry, raspberry, cranberry compote, dried herbs over wood smoke. Adelaida's HMR Estate hillside terrain on the westside of Paso Robles, ranges from 1500 to 2000 feet in elevation these low yielding vines are challenged by chalky limestone soils, afternoon blasts of cool marine air, and a diurnal temperature swing of 40-45 degrees. With vines at 50 years of age now, this is truly a very unique "old vine" Pinot Noir. Grapes are picked at night, fermented in open top vats utilizing indigenous yeast cultures and matured in light toast French oak barrels for 18 months.

santa maria valley

#7 VILLA MT. EDEN 'BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD' 2008

GLASS \$14.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$42.00 BOTTLE \$84.00

Dark ruby red in color, this Santa Maria Valley Pinot Noir displays aromas of blueberry and cherry, leading to flavor notes of blackberry, plum, caramel, red licorice, cedar, and chocolate. As the palate deepens, notes of earth, forest floor, mushroom, and tobacco leaf emerge. This is a complex wine with a well-balanced body, soft tannins, and a long, fruity finish.

santa barbara

#8 PALI 'HUNTINGTON' 2012

GLASS \$12.00 1/2 BOTTLE \$36.00 BOTTLE \$72.00

Amazingly this Pinot Noir was featured as #3 on the Wine Spectator's list of California's Top Value Pinot Noir's. Most recently, it was ranked as the #86 Wine in the World, on the Prestigious Wine Spectator Top 100 wines of 2014 (Out of more than 17,000 wines reviewed)... Complex, dense and persistent," Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate calls it a "delicious quaffer". The Los Angeles Times, states that "In California, few are doing a better job with affordable Pinot than Pali"

tasting flights

4 small (65ml) tasting sized glasses to quaff side by side arranged to compare regional differences.

FLIGHT #1 WINE PRESS SERIES, CASTLEROCK, HUG & PALI (1-3-5-8)..... \$18.00

FLIGHT #2 SIDURI, MORGAN, ADELAIDA & VILA MT EDEN (2-4-6-7)..... \$24.00

Why are you so in to Pinot? I mean, its like a thing with you.

So, in honor of Miles, we're not serving any F\$%#ing Merlot by the glass for two months
Roti Roppongi - The California Wine Institute's California by the glass Japan-wide annual promotion 2015.