

Wine Spectator

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

10 Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays to Cheer the Holidays

Stuff your stockings with these excellent, expressive wines from California and Oregon

By Augustus Weed



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Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

'Tis the season to stock your wine cellar. Many of us will entertain this time of year, so make sure there's enough wine to keep everyone's spirits bright. This week we've rounded up 10 California and Oregon Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays from recent tastings that are sure to be a hit at your next holiday party.

Topping the list are two Pinot Noirs from Oregon's Willamette Valley. [Patricia Green's](#) reserve bottling is made from barrels not selected for the single-vineyard cuvées, and offers comparable quality to its more expensive stablemates. For a few dollars less, [Roco's](#) Gravel Road Pinot Noir shows the vibrancy and richness of the best wines from Oregon's 2017 vintage. Refined Chardonnays from Oregon's [Evening Land](#) and [Stoller](#) also share the spotlight.

Some of California's top regions for Burgundy grapes are represented here as well, including [Walt's](#) ripe and concentrated Pinot Noir from the cool Sta. Rita Hills appellation in Santa Barbara County. There are also great values from former NFL defensive great [Charles Woodson's new label, Intercept](#), and Paso Robles pioneer [J. Lohr](#).



LANDMARK

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Grand Detour

Score: 90 | \$35

WS review: Juicy, with good cut to the wild berry and cherry flavors, featuring enticing floral notes. Firm tannins show on the lively finish, accented by hints of forest floor. Drink now through 2023. 1,342 cases made. From California.—*K.M.*