

4 Must-try Pinot Noirs from Around the Globe

Compare Pinot Noir's Palate Profiles from Four Vastly Different Regions



Willamette Valley Wine Country

There may not be a more transparent grape. Capable of reflecting specific subsoil and climate conditions with the brilliance and precision of an immaculate mirror, Pinot Noir, when grown well, emits elegance, finesse and integrated complexity like no other.

Thin-skinned, immensely susceptible to all sorts of disease and demanding low yields to really shine, Pinot Noir can be an exceptionally expensive, risk

Yet, producers from its premier coastal climates of Chile and New Zealand's Waipara Valley offer clarity and varietal vision.

These four well-established Pinot Noir grape to soaring heights and angles of palate presence,

BURGUNDY PINOT NOIR

While Burgundy is the most famous, the narrow strip of land, 100 miles long in the middle of France, offer up an unmistakable, innate sense of place (limestone) is absolutely essential for better or worse, with its austere minerality and refined fruit to earthy barnyard themes, Burgundian soil structures are well delineated and undeniably revered.

Pinot Pick: Domaine Faiveley Mercurey Rouge 2013 (FR) \$25
Burgundy is segmented into five main subregions with the Côte Chalonnaise situated in the middle of the Burgundy block.

The village of Mercurey sits within the Côte Chalonnaise and offers its name to the wines that hail from this fairly large appellation. The 2013 Domaine Faiveley Rouge from Mercurey starts the glass off with bright red fruit aromas and a smidge of warm spice. The palate opens up to reveal another round of Bing

cherry and red currant fruit woven with glossy tannins and ample acidity.

Earthy nuances roll towards the finish and extend into tobacco and clove on the close.

CHILEAN PINOT NOIR

Pinot Pick: Ritual Casablanca Valley Pinot Noir 2014 (Chile) \$18
The cool climate zone of Chile's Casablanca coastline offers up ideal growing conditions for this demanding grape. Chilean producer, Veramonte, makes a top notch rendition with unmistakable black cherry aromatics and ripe raspberry in the mix. The palate showcases a fuller body, well-developed tannins, fresh red fruit and just a swirl of dark chocolate on the finish. Packing tremendous value while maintaining a laser-like focus on quality, the 2014 Ritual Casablanca Valley Pinot Noir is a delicious collaboration between Chilean producer, Veramonte, and international winemaker and consultant, Paul Hobbs.

OREGON PINOT NOIR

Pinot Pick: Roco Willamette Valley Pinot Noir 2012 (OR) \$28
This well-priced Pinot Noir from the heart of the Willamette Valley illustrates why Pinot in particular has emerged as Oregon's adopted grape. Expect a round of sweet strawberry, cherry

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currant, cherry, with a splash of dark chocolate and a lean line of graphite. Vibrant acidity maintains the fresh-faced red fruit with a zippy palate presence and anchored by fine, silky tannins. Easy to like and well-priced to boot.

HUNEEUS VINTNERS
[THE WINES OF AGUSTIN HUNEEUS]

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