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Wine of the Day, No. 336

Posted by Fredric Koeppel



RITUAL

RITUAL PINOT NOIR 2015

Casablanca Valley, Chile

Boy, here's a pinot noir from Chile's cool-climate Casablanca Valley that goes down with silky suppleness and nuance. The Ritual Pinot Noir 2015 aged 10 months in French oak, 30 percent new barrels, a regimen that seems perfect for the wine. The color is intense ruby-magenta that shades to an utterly transparent rim; you'll find it difficult to resist this bouquet that weaves talc and lavender with ripe and abundantly spicy black cherries, raspberries and plums; a few moments in the glass open to notes of cloves, cranberries, rose petals and sandalwood. The wine reveals lovely purity of character on the palate, with a sense of dark fruit and a sleek texture enlivened by bright acidity and bolstered by burgeoning elements of dusty graphite and moderate tannins that express an elegant, almost ethereal structure. 14 percent alcohol.

A lovely effort, for drinking through 2020 or '22.

Excellent. About \$22

Representing Good Value.