

Wine Spectator

10 California Pinot Noirs at 90+ Points



Photo by: Richard Green Photography

Roar winery makes Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Syrah from vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands.

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](https://www.winespectator.com) members.

The many shades of Pinot Noir are on display in this week's selection, which hails from a variety of regions, including both single-vineyard and regional bottlings. All achieved outstanding scores in recent tastings and range from \$47 to as low as \$25.

Take your pick for what suits your palate. From the five 91-pointers, [Böen](#) shows a ripe and spicy style, while [De Loach](#) is more delicate. [Marimar Estate](#) highlights oak with a smoky overlay and subtle fruit folding in, while [Roar](#) and Tondré's Pinots are tight and savory.

From the 90-pointers, three wines from cool and breezy Carneros showcase the region's hallmark characters of floral and spice notes with lively acidity and tannins.

BÖEN Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2016 Score: 91 | \$30

This supple, graceful style pushes ripe blueberry and blackberry flavors to the front, with hints of nutmeg, cinnamon and black tea, making for an engagingly complex effort. Drink now through 2026. 7,675 cases made.—*James Laube*

DE LOACH Pinot Noir Russian River Valley O.F.S. 2015 Score: 91 | \$40

Lightly aromatic and subtle on the palate, even as the tannins acquire strength and the wine gains prominence. Zesty wild raspberry flavors show a loamy licorice side. Best from 2019 through 2027. 655 cases made.—*J.L.*

MARIMAR ESTATE Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Mas Cavalls Doña Margarita Vineyard 2014 Score: 91 | \$47

Distinctive, featuring a smoky, toasty overlay that complements a gentle core of gravelly berry, plum and cherry flavors. Long and clean on the finish. Drink now. 1,912 cases made.—*J.L.*

ROAR Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands 2016 *Score: 91 | \$42*

Tight and savory, with a mix of forest floor, modestly ripe plum and wild berry flavors, firming on the finish. Best from 2019 through 2024. 1,410 cases made.—*J.L.*

TONDRÉ Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Tondré Grapefield 2014 *Score: 91 | \$40*

Tight and zesty, with attractive flavors of loamy earth, forest floor, dried berry, spicy oak and baking spices, clean and long. Drink now through 2025. 450 cases made.—*J.L.*

BUENA VISTA Pinot Noir Carneros 2015 *Score: 90 | \$25*

An appealing wine that succeeds in an understated style, with nuanced flavors of light anise, plum, blackberry and tea. Drink now. 2,100 cases made.—*J.L.*

DOMAINE CARNEROS Pinot Noir Carneros 2015 *Score: 90 | \$39*

Appropriately firm and flavorful, with a core of blackberry and wild berry flavors and anise and floral scents, gaining depth and tannic weight on the finish. Drink now through 2023. 3,200 cases made.—*J.L.*

HAHN Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands SLH 2016 *Score: 90 | \$30*

Offering a mix of dried berry, black tea, spice and loamy earth flavors, this succeeds, delivering moderately ripe fruit and loamy tannins. Best from 2019 through 2024. 34,000 cases made.—*J.L.*

KOKOMO Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Peters Vineyard Gopher Hill Block 2016 *Score: 90 | \$44*

A distinctive style that blends fresh earth notes with modest plum and cherry flavors, turning to black licorice accents and maintaining an elegant, graceful presence. Drink now through 2024. 650 cases made.—*J.L.*

SAINTSBURY Pinot Noir Carneros 2016 *Score: 90 | \$36*

Medium-weight, complex and spicy, offering lively raspberry and dusty earth flavors and grainy tannins that provide substance and depth. Ends with lightly chewy tannins. Drink now through 2022. 2,611 cases made.—*J.L.*