7 Stellar Sonoma County Pinot Noirs to Drink Right Now

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Senses Wines 2021 Day One Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast California



Senses' estate vineyard is aptly named "Hillcrest" because of its position on the top of a rocky hill only 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean and this particular wine is named "Day One" because this vineyard is where the three partners (and childhood friends) Max, Myles, and Christopher rolled up their sleeves, hand farmed, and hand harvested their first vintage of Senses Pinot Noir. Their 2021 vintage is dark cherry colored with aromas of black cherry, freshly ground black pepper, and ripe strawberry that open in the palate to these three flavors with the addition of dried orange peel and cinnamon stick.

Buy Now: $135

Saintsbury 2021 Pratt Vineyards Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast California



In the mid 1990s Jim Pratt searched for the perfect vineyard to grow his own grapes and eventually found a cool and foggy 10-acre hillside vineyard just west of Sebastopol.

He planted Pinot Noir clones including Pommard, clone 828, and clone 23 to give nice balance to his wines. Named for the Pratt Vineyards where these Pinot Noir grapes are sourced, this juicy Sonoma stunner has aromas of red currant, cherry brandy, and purple flowers. It has nice heft on the palate with flavors of lavender, red plum, freshly picked Bing cherries and dried cranberry. The tannins are silky and smooth, and the finish goes on for days.

Buy Now: $80

JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset 2021 No 19 Pinot Noir West Sonoma Coast California



As a young child, Jean-Charles Boisset played in the Pinot Noir vineyards of the Clos du Vougeot in northern Burgundy and his family is well versed in the production of excellent Pinot Noir wines there. He visited California as a pre-teen and knew destiny would eventually bring him back. He moved to Northern California in the early 1990s and purchased his first winery in 1999. His eponymous line of JCB wines feature well-made bottles from California and France and this Pinot is no exception. It is vibrant ruby colored in the glass with inviting aromas of bright red cherry, red plum, and freshly ground white pepper. It comes alive in the palate with lively flavors of red raspberry, red currant, dried orange peel, and a just a slight touch of powdered cocoa in the long, long, finish.

Buy Now: $125

Guarachi Family Wines 2021 Sun Chase Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast California



Chilean-born Alex Guarachi began his wine career importing fine Chilean and Argentine wines into the United States, but in 2007 he decided to start his own brand and founded Guarachi Family Wines. His focus since inception has been to make terroir-driven wines that capture the entrepreneurial spirit and charm of the Sonoma Coast. Guarachi Family Wines 2021 Sun Chase Pinot Noir offers aromas of black cherry, dried cranberry, violets, and pomegranate seeds. It is generous and rounded on the palate with flavors of red plum, farm-fresh strawberry, and a touch of cedar box in the long finish.

Buy Now: $75

Donum Estate 2021 Carneros Estate Pinot Noir Carneros Sonoma California



Donum Estate was founded in 2001 and their wines have received many high ratings and accolades over the last 22 years from many of our colleagues. This flagship wine is made from grapes sourced from the estate's 95 acres of vines and uses only the best barrel lots in the final blend. Ruby garnet colored in the glass, this wine offers aromas of black and red plums, brown baking spices, and bright cherry. It has opulent tannins and flavors of red raspberry, Bing cherry, and toasted hazelnuts with a bright splash of acidity in the finish.

Buy Now: $95

Chateau St Jean 2019 Hallberg Ranch Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Sonoma California



Chateau St Jean was founded in 1973 with the premise of making fine European style wines in the heart of Sonoma County and today Bill Foley and his family continue the tradition of making single vineyard wines that highlight the region's distinctive growing areas. This luscious wine is made from Pinot Noir clones 828 and 777 and was allowed to complete malolactic fermentation before transfer to 55 percent new French oak barrels for an additional 16 months of aging. It has aromas of red berry preserves, cherry coke, and freshly ground white pepper that transfer seamlessly to the palate with flavors of black cherry, tangerine pith, pomegranate, and anise.

Buy Now: $70

Benovia Winery 2021 Martaella Estate Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Sonoma California



Benovia is named for owners Mary Dewane and Joe Anderson's fathers Ben Dewane and Novian Anderson, and in the same tradition grapes for this delicious Pinot Noir are sourced from their Martaella Vineyard named in honor of their mothers. Because of the dry growing season in 2021 they and their vineyard team implemented early irrigation and water conservation efforts which produced excellent quality grapes but lower than average yields. This delicious Pinot Noir is deep garnet colored with aromas of red cherry, cinnamon, nutmeg, and candied orange peel. Soft tannins and voluptuous mouthfeel pave the way for flavors of ripe red plum, red raspberry, and dried Bing cherry.

Buy Now: $75