

CONNOISSEURS' GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA WINE



OCTOBER 2011



91 **ARISTA MONONI VINEYARD** Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2009

Sorry



\$60.00

If comparatively sleek and subtle, lighter in step and moderated in ripeness, this well-crafted wine finds its own and separate voice from its mates. It exhibits plenty of deep fruit and richness with a grace unique to Pinot Noir, and its supple, but structured style affords it lots of near-term appeal even while being a wine worthy of age. Set it aside for a couple of years if you can, and then pull its cork and pour it alongside a savory roasted duck.

Reviewed: **October 2011**

91 **ARISTA Woodruff Vineyard Pinot Noir Santa Cruz Mountains 2009**

Sorry



\$55.00

Provenance clearly shows here as this bottling strikes us as markedly different in stance from the rest of its more northerly-grown mates. Charged with a wealth of red-cherry fruit and showing a twist of ripe blackberries as well, it is supple and well-extracted with a slightly more sinewy feel. It is built with a fine spine of evident tannin that points the way to better with age, and its deep and compelling fruit guarantees it will improve for five to ten years.

Reviewed: **October 2011**

90 **ARISTA Bacigalupi Vineyard Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2009**

Sorry



\$58.00

Among the more forward and accessible of the many 2009 Arista Pinot Noirs, this rich, fleshy and well-ripened opus is a decidedly supple wine that, while flavorful and full, is never too much. Its integral acidity wards off softness and affords a bit of brightness without cramping its ongoing flavors of fully expressed black cherry fruit. While not a wine that is in any danger of fading away soon, it is entirely approachable now and will afford tasty drinking with savory roasted pork recipes in the relatively near term.

Reviewed: **October 2011**

90 **ARISTA Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2009**



\$44.00

Nicely ripened, carefully oaked and fixed on pure, ripe-cherry fruit, this supple and wonderfully approachable wine hits the Russian River mark in terms of balance and varietal precision. It is inviting and outgoing, to be sure, but it reveals a little more richness and depth with each sip, and, if not quite showing the complexity of the district's most famous sites, this is a very good Pinot that speaks clearly to place.

Reviewed: **October 2011**