

# THE TASTING PANEL

SPEED TASTING REPORT

## Pinot on the Ritz

MARCH 2012 • 3.95

THE RITZ-CARLTON, HALF MOON BAY WAS A DREAM SETTING FOR OUR MOST RECENT BLIND WINE **SPEED TASTING** OF THIS ALWAYS FASHIONABLE COOL-CLIMATE VARIETAL

photos by John Curley

Even though we were tasked with tasting 15 different Pinot Noirs blind, our senses were captivated. From our focused noses and

### ARISTA WINERY 2009,

Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley (\$56)

*Not restrained at all, this is a big, big, delicious wine with cooking spices and velvet tannins." - Ted Glennon*



Mark McWilliams manages the day-to-day operations at Arista Winery.

### RITZY PINOT #9: "BIG, BAD BOY"

**ARISTA WINERY 2009,** Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley (\$56)

Arista Winery was founded by the McWilliams family in 2002 and they presently craft 14 different Pinot Noirs. The family's philosophy is that "wines carefully cultivated in the vineyard are well behaved in the cellar." While most of the Arista Pinots hail from the Russian River Valley, the Anderson Valley specimen poured at our event is a style "out of the box" for the family. 250 cases.

"Not restrained at all, this is a big, big, delicious wine with cooking spices and velvet tannins." —Ted Glennon

"Deep color—almost electric. Baked cherries, baked apple skin, exotic mandarin orange and a heady vanilla spice continue to add character to this heavy hitter." —Chris Gaither

