



HARTFORD  
COURT



February 2012, Issue #199

94  
POINTS

2009  
SEASCAPE VINEYARD  
SONOMA COAST  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir Seascape Vineyard bursts from the glass with layers of intensely perfumed fruit. The aromatics are especially pronounced, but it is the wine's balance and overall sense of harmony that elevate the Seascape. Small red berries, crushed flowers, mint, pine and licorice wrap around the intense, saline finish. This is a very typical west Sonoma Coast Pinot. The purity of fruit is simply striking.

92+  
POINTS

2009  
JENNIFER'S  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir Jennifer's presents an intriguing combination of density in its fruit, but with plenty of underlying minerality from the site's proximity to the Petaluma Wind Gap. Wilder hints of earthiness, game, black olives, tar and licorice develop in the glass, adding considerable complexity.

92  
POINTS

2009  
FAR COAST VINEYARD  
SONOMA COAST  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir Far Coast Vineyard is a wonderfully complete wine. Brisk saline notes, dark red berries, licorice and spices are all woven together beautifully. The Far Coast shows the minerality of the northern coast, but with a surprising amount of fruit for this site. Firm tannins frame the long finish.

92  
POINTS

2009  
ARRENDALL VINEYARD  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir Arrendell Vineyard flows across the palate with super-ripe black cherries, hard candy, mint, savory herbs, flowers and sweets spices. This is an especially round, silky and opulent Pinot that impresses for its exuberance and silkiness. Sweet floral notes reappear to frame the finish.

91  
POINTS

2009  
LAND'S EDGE VINEYARDS  
SONOMA COAST  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir Land's Edge Vineyards is made in a fairly rich, round style for the Sonoma Coast. The Land's Edge is built on a rich core of expressive dark red fruit, flowers, licorice and spices. It shows gorgeous depth and definition from the first taste. Deep layers of fruit wrap around the intense finish.

91  
POINTS

2009  
FOG DANCE VINEYARD  
GREEN VALLEY OF THE  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir Fog Dance Vineyard is a soft, silky wine that shows the feminine, graceful side of Pinot. Sweet raspberries, flowers, exotic spices, citrus and mint flow from the glass in this high-toned, delicate Pinot.

91  
POINTS

2009  
MACLEAN'S BLOCK  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir MacLean's Block is a big, masculine wine bursting with expressive dark fruit. Firm tannins provide the backbone in this virile, unique Pinot. The MacLean's will appeal most to readers who appreciate a bigger, firmer style of Pinot.

91  
POINTS

2009  
SEVENS BENCH VINEYARD  
CARNEROS  
PINOT NOIR

The 2009 Pinot Noir Seven's Bench Vineyard is a big, rich wine endowed with generous fruit and an open, radiant personality. It shows the exuberance of the 777 and 667 clones planted on clay soils. Subtle earthy notes, black cherries and licorice develop in the glass, adding complexity.

92  
POINTS

2009  
SEASCAPE VINEYARD  
SONOMA COAST  
CHARDONNAY

The 2009 Chardonnay Seascape Vineyard reveals an intriguing combination of expressive citrus, salt and crushed stone on a fairly large frame. The wine's balance and overall sense of harmony are first rate. A racy, saline-infused finish rounds things out in style. This is a gorgeous showing from Hartford.

91-93  
POINTS

2010  
FOUR HEARTS VINEYARDS  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY SONOMA  
CHARDONNAY

The 2010 Chardonnay Four Hearts Vineyards...displays a lovely combination of intensity of fruit and minerality. All of the elements meld together beautifully in this textured, complete Chardonnay. Lemon peel, mint, flowers and crushed rocks inform the expressive finish. The Four Hearts grows beautifully with time in the glass.

90-92  
POINTS

2010  
FAR COAST VINEYARD  
SONOMA COAST  
CHARDONNAY

The 2010 Chardonnay Far Coast Vineyard shows the energy and drive of this site north of Fort Ross in the upper reaches of the west Sonoma Coast. At the same time the Hartford style is evident. Brisk saline notes provide the backbone in this aromatic, varietally expressive Chardonnay. Sweet hints from the oak linger on the finish.

90-92  
POINTS

2010  
FOG DANCE VINEYARD  
GREEN VALLEY OF THE  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
CHARDONNAY

The 2010 Chardonnay Fog Dance Vineyard shows a little more focus and cut than the Stone Cote. Here the aromatics show the higher-toned side of Chardonnay. White flowers, lemon and crushed rocks are very nicely layered in this focused, taut Chardonnay. I especially like the energy here.



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93+  
POINTS

2010  
HARTFORD  
DINA'S VINEYARD  
ZINFANDEL

The 2010 Zinfandel Dina's Vineyard is a striking wine endowed with tons of finesse, richness and power. All of the elements are beautifully balanced here. A sensual, expressive bouquet leads to dense, layered fruit, all supported by huge tannins. Crushed rocks, licorice, leather and menthol develop in the glass. ...it is explosive and full of personality. These head-trained vines are nearly 100 years old.

93  
POINTS

2010  
HARTFORD  
HIGHWIRE VINEYARD  
ZINFANDEL

The 2010 Zinfandel Highwire Vineyard is another impressive wine, but here it is the silkiness and graciousness of the tannin that distinguishes the Highwire. The presence of Carigane in this site gives the wine much of its high-toned, floral bouquet. Sweet red berries, flowers, mint and licorice inform the sensual, inviting finish. This is another terrific showing from Hartford. The Highwire is an especially racy, sleek wine. It makes a fascinating contrast to the Dina's as the two sites are essentially next to each other but the field blends are quite different.

90  
POINTS

2010  
HARTFORD  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
ZINFANDEL

The 2010 Zinfandel Russian River Valley is a big, exuberant wine bursting with dark black fruit, spices, mint and tobacco. This luscious Zinfandel is an excellent choice for drinking over the next few years. High-toned floral notes add lift and freshness on the finish. I especially like the way the wine turns more elegant and finessed with time in the glass.

90+  
POINTS

2010  
HARTFORD  
JOLENE'S VINEYARD  
ZINFANDEL

The 2010 Zinfandel Jolene's Vineyard bursts onto the palate with waves of dark fruit. The Jolene's shows massive richness, power and concentration.



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