

with a light chill and serve it with braised duck, or chicken thighs. (2,100 cases)

OREGON

94 | Adelsheim \$125

2014 Chehalem Mountains Quarter Mile Lane Pinot Noir When I describe a wine as 'on the rails,' I'm referring to that thing that railcars do so well: convey weighty contents in an effortless glide—as does this elegant wine from Adelsheim. Drawn from the estate's oldest vines, planted in 1971, it's expressive from the start, an ethereal mélange of pine spice, smoke and dark cherry—Pacific Northwest in its essence. The flavors seem packed and layered at once, the notes of bergamot and Yunnan spice adding contour to the elegant, refined, dark berry fruit character. It's a wine that will grow in stature and complexity with age. (W&S 8/17; 91 cases)

94 | Cristom \$60

2014 Eola-Amity Hills Jessie Vineyard Pinot Noir Jessie, named for founder Paul Gerrie's grandmother, is not the highest of the five vineyards in the Cristom stable, but it is the steepest, and one of the most densely planted. In 2014 it turned out a wine of quiet aplomb. It starts off with a gentle aromatic profile of forest-floor scents and Earl Grey tea, a hint of wild strawberry in the flavor, intriguingly reticent. With a day's air the wine becomes fresher and more mouthfilling, the tannins firm but elegant in a vibrant finish that reflects the sunny energy of the vintage. (W&S 12/17; 964 cases)

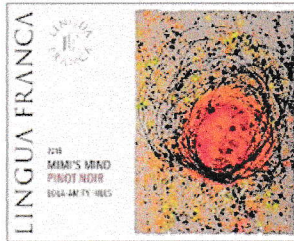


94 | Drouhin Oregon Roserock \$60

2015 Eola-Amity Hills Zéphirine Pinot Noir The Drouhins are clearly hitting their stride with Roserock, their new property in the South Salem Hills. The '15 Zéphirine, a barrel selection, is poised, with scents of caramel and dusty cherry, a whiff of pipe tobacco. Satisfying and inviting, its flavors bear an oak signature that should be familiar to Drouhin lovers, a suave, smooth persistent woody sheen on dark red-fruit flavors. It's seamless, with the sort of balance that should guarantee a long life. (1,794 cases)

94 | J. Christopher \$52

2015 Eola-Amity Hills Bieze Vineyard Pinot Noir This vineyard is just to the west of Seven Springs Vineyard on Lone Star Road, and the fruit from that area always seems to project an especially firm structure. Here, its strawberry perfume is informed by a whiff of caramel and oak. The flavors are brisk and lifted, brimming with succulent cherry and strawberry fruit, lasting with vibrant freshness. (70 cases)



94 | Lingua Franca \$90

2015 Eola-Amity Hills Mimi's Mind Pinot Noir Larry Stone, MS, purchased land right next to Seven Springs, hiring Mimi Casteel as viticulturist; Thomas Savre is the winemaker, and Dominique Lafon is consulting to the team. They are making wines from a small selection of sites while they wait for the LSV Vineyard to bear fruit. This one grows nearby at Casteel's Hope Well Vineyard, where she hones her meticulous farming techniques. This 2015 feels youthful, all nascent intensity, as if its contents were packed together with unusual concentration. The flavors, bearing a smoky, whole-cluster note, are at once poised and powerful. A wine with quiet grace and completeness now, this will benefit from some cellar time as well, before serving with chicken and wild mushroom fricassee. (471 cases)

94 | Matzinger-Davies \$42

2014 Eola-Amity Hills Pinot Noir From two small vineyards in the Eola Hills, this wine is all strawberry-blossom perfume when first poured, its brisk red-fruit flavors remarkably lithe and precise. The wine only gets more sumptuous with air, seamless and forward, the bergamot-scented whole-cluster spice playing a supportive role to the fruit, which feels generous, loose limbed and long. (342 cases)

94 | Panther Creek \$50

2014 Eola-Amity Hills Schindler Vineyard Pinot Noir From a LIVE-certified vineyard on the southern end of the appellation, this is a wine that looks and feels brooding. Give it air and it's nothing of the sort.

YEAR'S BEST PINOT NOIRS

Instead, it's laced with exotic spices, some from whole-cluster fermentation, some, it would seem, from the cooling embers of a nearby campsite. The savor carries over to the palate, like a smoke and cherry infusion, with an elegance and energy that gives the wine length and lift. (W&S 8/17; 556 cases)

94 | Walter Scott \$50

2015 Eola-Amity Hills Clos des Oiseaux Pinot Noir From a small, LIVE-certified, southeast-facing vineyard planted in 2000 and 2002, this pinot is generous when first poured, and then, with air, seems to unfurl like a sail, with a pleasing tension between the tea-like stem spice and the bright Morello cherry flavors. The whole-cluster treatment gives the wine some volume and breadth, but acidity envelops the finish and makes the wine mouthwatering, seductive and lasting. It compels you to the next sip. (W&S 10/17; 275 cases)

93 | Adelsheim \$75

2014 Chehalem Mountains Boulder Bluff Pinot Noir From a parcel adjacent to Quarter Mile Lane, this wine feels cut from similar cloth, with its alpine spice, pine-tip freshness and lean frame. The flavors are darker though, more root-based, with clean lines, a stony elegance, and savory, gripping tannins of uncommon length and persistence. It will reward some cellar time. (W&S 8/17; 509 cases)

93 | Amalie Robert \$30

2012 Willamette Valley The Uncarved Block Pinot Noir (Best Buy) This wine has benefited from its extended time in bottle, with developed flavors gracefully falling into place. The aromas are leafy and herbal, hinting at a chlorophyll note, like lovage or celery leaf, adorning spiced cherry scents. The flavors are just as complex, with elements of pu-erh tea and mushrooms contributing an elegant umami savor. A well-priced opportunity to jump on some wine with age. (W&S 10/17; 1,000 cases)

93 | Argyle \$50

2015 Eola-Amity Hills Nuthouse Pinot Noir Lean and vinous, this youthful pinot has a woodsy pine scent and a whiff of caramel oak adorning its strawberry accents. There's a fine interplay between a kind of resinous savor and invigoratingly juicy fruit flavors, with a lasting coniferous impression, for something like rosemary roast chicken. (W&S 2/18; 2,000 cases)