

32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL RESTAURANT POLL

# RESTAURATIVE POWER

FINDING NOURISHMENT IN A PANDEMIC

# Wine & Spirits



April 2021

WINEANDSPIRITSMAGAZINE.COM

\$5.99 / CANADA \$6.99

DISPLAY UNTIL MAY 1, 2021



YEAR'S BEST US PINOT NOIR *plus* 66 BEST BUYS

0 74808 02019 5

## Year's Best **US Pinot Noirs**

ried, with an angular firmness that's propelled by its oak treatment; for the cellar. —P.J.C.

### 90 | Lange \$70

**2018 Dundee Hills Lange Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir** There's a focused, concentrated dark-cherry core of flavor in this reserve from the Lange Estate. It's firmly etched with oak at the moment, both in its caramel flavors and its angular tannins. Cellar it to allow fruit and oak to knit. —P.J.C. (450 cases)

### 90 | Purple Hands Winery \$55

**2018 Dundee Hills Latchkey Vineyard Pinot Noir** This wine, with its high-toned spice note, and mélange of cherry-red fruit, feels whole and complete, if blocky in its youth. The flavors are rich and savory, delivered with a dark elegance. Give it some cellar time before serving with a mushroom pasta. —P.J.C. (700 cases)

### 90 | Stoller \$50

**2018 Dundee Hills Reserve Pinot Noir** This wine has a plush texture that hints at the rich soils of the estate. Its flavors are just as lavish, framed by dark oak character. Cellar to let the oak knit. —P.J.C.

### 90 | Winderlea \$55

**2017 Dundee Hills Weber Vineyard Pinot Noir** Dundee in texture and tone, this has lifted red fruits and a fruit blossom delicacy to its aromatics. The flavors are more driven by oak, a caramelized richness framing red cherry and cranberry fruit—that fruit light against a stalwart frame. For roast beef. —P.J.C. (350 cases)

## EOLA-AMITY HILLS



### 96 | Rose & Arrow \$150

**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Hopewell Hills Gathered Stones Pinot Noir** Hopewell Hills is a shallow-soiled fragment of fractured-stone in the basalt structure of the Eola Hills. In 2018, it produced a wine like no other I've ever tasted from Oregon. It

has a vigorous spiciness when first poured, a series of reductive aromas of tar and rail ties and oil that fall away one by one, revealing, by day two, a wine of stunning complexity and fulsome flavor. That industrial savor becomes a background the fruit rests on like a dancer on a stage. By day three, the wine's aromas are explosive, reminiscent of a spice bazaar—cardamom, ginger, chai and cacao, all wound around expansive, pure cherry fruit. A bravura performance. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 125 cases)

### 96 | Walter Scott \$65

**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Sojeau Vineyard Pinot Noir** Sojeau was planted in 2007 by Denny Peseau, who's farmed in the area since the 1970s. It's on the southern edge of the Eola-Amity Hills, set high on a ridge and facing southwest, toward the Van Duzer Corridor winds, on shallow basalt soils ("rocky as f\*\*\*!" says winemaker Ken Pahlow). It is a haunting wine, with scents of licorice, cinnamon, allspice and tea, all of it channeled through vibrant red-cherry and raspberry flavors, with a diaphanous tension and lightness that's astonishing. Pahlow made some spectacular wines in 2018, and Sojeau may end up being the most complex and lasting. One taster named it Prince, for its binary sensuality, yin-and-yang expression of power and delicacy, its virtuoso fruit and its haunting savor. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 450 cases)

### 94 | Bergström \$70

**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir** Josh Bergström has been drawing pinot noir from Temperance Hill since 2004. This vintage is slightly more austere than some of his other pinots recommended in this issue: It smells vinous and savory, with a green, foresty scent and lingering violet notes. The flavors are at once delicate and firm, pomegranate and thyme propelled by a wash of persistent, vibrant acidity, generous in energy. Give it plenty of air, and pour it now to capture its youthful splendor. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 380 cases)

### 94 | Big Table Farm \$62

**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Pelos Sandberg Vineyard Pinot Noir** This has an old-vine vibe in its initial scents of tar and tanbark, licorice root and turf, all in support of an intriguing orange-peel character. By day two, the wine opens like a flower, beaming with vitality, exuberant notes of cherries and mulberries framed by persistent and tactile red-dust tannins. It's got plenty of life to warrant cellaring. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 259 cases)

### 94 | Cristom \$45

**2017 Eola-Amity Hills Canary Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir** From vines planted in 1983, this wine is smoky and tense, driven by cluster spice and youthful, juicy dark-cherry fruit. It feels plush but elegantly framed, pure, graceful and lean, and finishes with a dusty, windblown minerality, which gathers the wine beautifully, and suggests a long cellar life. —P.J.C. (W&S 6/20; 192 cases)

### 94 | Cristom \$55

**2017 Eola-Amity Hills Paul Gerrie Vineyard Pinot Noir** Paul Gerrie is the latest vineyard to join the pantheon of what Cristom calls "the four ladies," its estate vineyards. The wine is impressively complex for such a youngster: Steve Doerner's whole-cluster regimen adds a turfy note and lush, resinous tannins to a resolutely red-plum-and-cherry mélange of fruit. Elegant and fine; for salmon. —P.J.C. (W&S 6/20; 261 cases)



### 94 | Elevée \$52

**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Björnson Vineyard Pinot Noir** For winemaker Tom Fitzpatrick, Björnson Vineyard yields a forward, masculine wine with a touch of spice. It's more floral to me, with a scent of cherry blossoms and narcissus, shading to dark, exotic as all get out. The dark cherry flavors are pure and lifted, tethered to the floral elements. The texture is velvet, with fine acidity to frame the wine in vibrancy. —P.J.C. (300 cases)



### 94 | Matzinger Davies \$50

**2017 Eola-Amity Hills Pinot Noir** Anna Matzinger and Michael Davies are a hus-



band and wife team making small lots of unusual reds and whites from Oregon sources. They're enamored of high-elevation pinot, and that is how this wine reads, with a scent that's cool and savory, hints of turf, dried beef and plum. But that's just the beginning. Over four days this wine grows into an earthbound vessel of umami flavors, buoyed by brisk acids and serving gorgeous, perfectly ripe plum fruit, lively and lean, full of boundless energy and lift. It's an exciting wine with loads of inner tension, and the stuffing to age. —P.J.C. (330 cases)

**94 | Walter Scott** \$55  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills X Novo Vineyard Pinot Noir** This is the first vintage that Walter Scott purchased pinot noir grapes from X Novo. Farmed by Craig Williams, the pinot block contains 15 clones. In combination, they produced a lean, composed red, its brambly cherry flavors limned with tobacco leaf and a whisper of oak. This is destined to be long-lived and complex at every stage of its life. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 175 cases)

**93 | OO Wines** \$175  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Richard Hermann Cuvée Pinot Noir** Exotic scents of balsamic spice and dark plum suggest this will be a rich wine, and its first impression is just that. But after a day open, then two days, it becomes more limpid, the flavors stretched like elastic into a finer expression, the extract settled, the texture sleek. It's still flash, but stylish; it has the stamina to age well. —P.J.C.

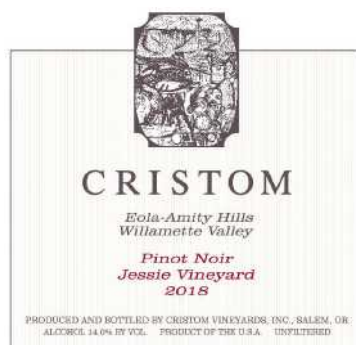
**93 | Averaen** \$35  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Flood Line Pinot Noir (Best Buy)** This is the new Oregon venture from the California team at Ban-shee wines. Tasted over three days, this wine changed dramatically. Everything was on display when first poured, with dark oak and sanguine notes, plum and minerals. But it takes time for those elements to harmonize, the wine coming into balance and focus, with a tender mineral give to the tannins that feels flexible and expressive. —P.J.C. (1,000 cases)

**93 | Bergström** \$70  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Hope Well Pinot Noir** This is Bergström's first vintage from Mimi Casteel's Hope Well Vineyard. Her meticulous farming is evident in the wine's delicacy, the initial scents of capsicum and smoke giving way to a lean, ethereal wild-cherry fruit. Structurally, it's tight and focused, with a firmness that seems to reflect the shallow soils of the east side of the Eola Hills. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 310 cases)

**93 | Big Table Farm** \$62  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Cattrall Brothers Vineyard Pinot Noir** Brian Marcy and Clare Carver use the high elevation of this site to ripen expressive fruit with minimal alcohol (12.1%, in this case). This wine is lean and peppery with a raspberry burst of fruit. The flavors are suave and slightly leathery, like a lean Burgundy. It will benefit from some cellar time before pouring with something just as savory, like roast salmon with mushrooms and lentils. —P.J.C. (134 cases)

**93 | Bryn Mawr Vineyards** \$50  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Jeffrey's Block Pinot Noir** From the first vines planted on the Bryn Mawr property in the mid-90s, this wine leads with scents of olive and smoke, then a burst of dark red-cherry flavor. It has a show-stopping richness on the palate—broad, saturating fruit supported by a generous complement of oak. It's got the polish and the structure to age gracefully. —P.J.C. (100 cases)

**93 | Drouhin Oregon Roserock** \$65  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Zéphirine Pinot Noir** A barrel selection of Roserock fruit, this shows the classic polish of a DDO bottling, burnished wood, cinnamon and cedar, the strawberry fruit posh and tight. The texture is suave, with a sturdy frame beneath fresh, acid-driven red fruits. —P.J.C. (1,960 cases)



**93 | Cristom** \$70  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Jessie Vineyard Pinot Noir** Named for Paul Gerrie's grandmother, Jessie is an 11-acre vineyard that's among the Willamette's steepest. In 2018, the wine leads with a smoky, austere expression of those shallow soils, viewed through a lens of cluster spice. But bright, warm cherry flavor comes bursting through the austere frame, mouthfilling and delicious. This is still far from peak expression; cellar it. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 840 cases)

**93 | Fullerton** \$65  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Bjornson Vineyard Pinot Noir** This wine's dark wild-berry aromas feel as if they are lined with wood smoke. The wildness carries throughout the wine, making it instantly appealing. The flavors go the route of black cherry but it's the texture that will have you going for another sip, a broad, saturated, satisfying mouthfeel that feels rich and compelling down to the finish. —P.J.C. (175 cases)

**93 | iOTA Cellars** \$42  
**2017 Eola-Amity Hills Pelos Sandberg Pinot Noir (Best Buy)** A 14-acre vineyard planted in 2001, this site is beginning to show some balance and depth in its fruit as the vines mature. The wine starts off with tight scents of cinnamon and black plum, opening with air, becoming spicy and savory, with an almost balsamic richness and depth to the flavors. It ends on an old-vine tanbark savor, with gorgeous persistence. —P.J.C. (540 cases)

**93 | J. Christopher** \$40  
**2017 Eola-Amity Hills Lumière Pinot Noir (Best Buy)** This is structured and subdued, with scents of licorice root and dark mulled strawberry giving way to muddled black-cherry flavors. It's juicy yet lean, the texture thickened by fruit-skin tannins and balanced by a lively acid structure. This will pair well with plank-roasted salmon. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 123 cases)

**93 | Walter Scott** \$65  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir** Walter Scott receives some of the highest-elevation fruit on the Temperance Hill property, a north-facing slope with shallow soils that's a challenge to farm. This 2018 is forthright, with a reductive scent of warm wool and cluster spice, a note of wild strawberries peeking through as it opens. It's reserved and pretty, the fruit teased into view like pale sun on a spring day. Built to age. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 150 cases)

**93 | Walter Scott** \$65  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir** Walter Scott gets a few tons of chardonnay and pinot noir from the Evening Land home vineyard, and makes the most of it. While this wine starts out a bit reduced and *animale*, with air, the leathery notes fade to reveal a mouthwatering rush of pomegranate and red-cherry flavor, driven by an effusive acidity. It feels like it's some time from peak expression. Cellar. —P.J.C. (W&S 10/20; 275 cases)