

50 TOP PINOT NOIRS + BEST BUYS

# Wine & Spirits

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## US Pinot Noirs



**94 | Matzinger Davies** \$50  
**2018 Eola-Amity Hills Pinot Noir (BEST BUY)** Mastering the middle register, this elegant pinot seems to walk the line between warm fruit flavors and a lean, olive-like savor. Its warmth registers in the aromas of horehound and a bowl of fresh cherries in the sun. Its tangy undertone of red-berry flavor deepens, becoming elegant with air, with a luxurious texture that one taster described as “soft in all the right places.” It feels effortless. —P.J.C. (280 cases)

### MCMINNVILLE

**93 | Cristom** \$40  
**2019 McMinnville AVA Series Pinot Noir (BEST BUY)** Scents of tobacco, black tea, smoke and mushroom give a dramatic savor to this AVA selection from Cristom. Drawn from Hyland and Meredith Mitchell Vineyards (CK), this wine’s flavors are sleek and curvy, the sedimentary soils of McMinnville giving plushness to the tannins, the whole-cluster spice taking on a more central savory role with air. —P.J.C. (220 cases)

### RIBBON RIDGE



**94 | Ribbon Ridge Winery** \$42  
**2019 Ridgecrest Estate Pinot Noir (BEST BUY)** Harry Peterson-Nedry and his daughter Wynne have been working with fruit from the southern exposures of this Ribbon Ridge property for more than 35 years. It’s one of the oldest in the AVA and seems to embody the appellation in its warmth and

exuberance, starting with its aromatics, all raspberry blossom and bursting cherry, set in a brambly savor. Lean and lithe, it has a streamlined elegance, with tannins that are firm but thrillingly energetic and precise, focused for a filet of arctic char. —P.J.C. (846 cases)

### VAN DUZER CORRIDOR

**93 | Johan** \$40  
**2019 Van Duzer Corridor Nils Pinot Noir (BEST BUY)** In this reserve selection, Morgan Beck sets out to isolate the structural intensity of the fruit Dag Johan Sundby grows in the midst of the Van Duzer Corridor gales—how the winds impact the fruit and the fruit skin, as well as the maturity of the stems. He draws out scents of whole-cluster spice in the wine’s notes of bergamot petals, tea and lavender. Following the elegant, savory scent, there’s more fruit than you might expect, the flavors recalling a bowlful of mulled cherries. The texture is sleek and firm at once, reflecting the firm skin of grapes grown in the Corridor winds. —P.J.C. (714 cases)

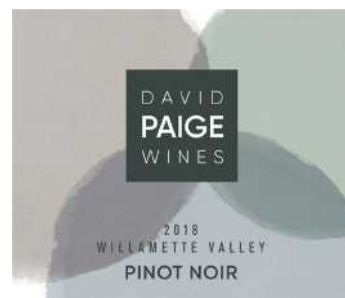
### WILLAMETTE VALLEY AVA



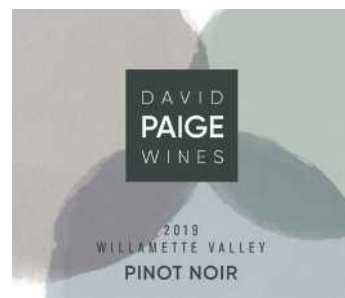
**94 | Nicolas-Jay** \$75  
**2018 Willamette Valley L'Ensemble Pinot Noir** Bringing together lots from five appellations, Jean-Nicolas Méo has crafted a gorgeous assemblage here, elegant and yet packed with flavor. It smells like a handful of ripe berries, the dark fruit elements framed by foresty scents. The wine’s texture is concentrated, focused and pure; its reined-in richness and succulence that finishes with remarkable poise. Impressive on its own, it would pair beautifully with game, like quail or Cornish hen roasted with fresh thyme. (1,145 cases)

**93 | Airlie** \$28  
**2016 Willamette Valley Estate Pinot Noir (BEST BUY)** A Christmas-time scent lends this wine an attractive savor in notes of pine, anisette and cut tobacco. Its flavors are juicy and bright—crushed cherries and candied

plum—with a whiff of caramelly oak to lend some heft to the holiday spice. It’s a steal at the price, ready for plank-roasted salmon. (460 cases)



**93 | David Paige** \$39  
**2018 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir** Dave Paige blends this wine from three sources—his estate vineyard in the Eola Hills, along with fruit from the Chehalem Mountains and Ribbon Ridge. The latter two provide the depth in the wine, as does the warm vintage with scents of warm blackberries and unsweetened cocoa. It’s richer than the pinot noirs Paige made at Adelsheim, with plenty of body and vibrancy, all driven by pulsing acidity that keeps the wine upright and lively. —P.J.C. (470 cases)



**93 | David Paige** \$39  
**2019 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir** During David Paige’s tenure as winemaker at Adelsheim, the winery started to pick earlier and at lower Brix levels, resulting in wines of exceptional delicacy and longevity. His own wines are slightly more saturated. This pinot noir offers sour-plum and red-cherry flavors that feel concentrated and dense, but the sapid mix of fine tannin and lively acidity gives this wine its taut energy. —P.J.C. (700 cases)