

Josh Raynolds

2011 Pinot Noir Julia's Vineyard Santa Maria Valley

Bright ruby. Sexy, oak-spiced cherry-cola and spice cake scents, along with a suave vanilla quality. Smoky, penetrating bitter cherry and smoky mineral flavors are sweetened by a mocha nuance and show impressive precision. Supple and seamless on the clinging finish, which features velvety tannins and an echo of vanillin oak.

92 Points

2011 Pinot Noir Sea Smoke Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

Ruby-red. Heady aromas of black raspberry, cherry-cola, potpourri and smoky minerals, with a sexy incense nuance in the background. Smooth, palate-staining dark berry and floral pastille flavors are lifted and braced by juicy acidity that adds back-end cut. Shows superb clarity on the mineral-tinged finish, which features supple tannins and lingering florality.

92 Points

2011 Syrah Toasted Rope Vogelzang Vineyard

Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara

Deep red. High-pitched red berry and rose scents are given depth by suggestions of wood smoke and licorice. Sappy, penetrating red fruit flavors are full of verve and sharpened by a palate-numbing black pepper quality. There's a litheness here that reminds me of Pinot Noir. Closes tangy and long, with impressive clarity, silky tannins and lingering smokiness. This intriguing wine, modeled on Cote-Rotie (mission accomplished), was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

92 Points

2011 Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

Vivid ruby. A highly perfumed bouquet evokes fresh raspberry, Asian spices, rose and wood smoke. Sweet, sappy and focused, with impressive clarity to its red fruit and floral pastille flavors. Becomes spicier and smokier with air and shows very good balance, in a Chambolle way. Finishes very long, with fine-grained tannins adding shape and grip.

92 Points

2011 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

Brilliant ruby-red. Fragrant, spice-tinged aromas of raspberry, cherry and rose pastille. Smooth and fleshy on entry, then tighter in the mid-palate, offering sweet red fruit flavors and hints of orange zest and smoky minerals that add vivacity. Finishes on an

appealingly sweet note, with smooth tannins shaping the fresh red berry and rose flavors.

91 Points

2011 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido – Block 43 Santa Maria Valley

Brilliant ruby-red. Spicy red fruit and floral scents are complemented by notes of Asian spices and musky herbs. A sweet vanilla note comes up with air and gives depth to sappy raspberry and rose pastille flavors. Becomes spicier on the finish, shaped by smooth, harmonious tannins. This Pinot benefits a lot from air and should be even better in a couple of years.

91(+) Points

2011 Pinot Noir Melville Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

Bright ruby. A heady, complex bouquet displays dried cherry, blackberry, sassafras and wood smoke, with a hint of spice cake gaining strength in the glass. Sappy and penetrating on the palate, with very good depth and energy to its dark fruit flavors. Closes smoky and quite long, with slow-building, chewy tannins and a hint of candied licorice.

91 Points

2011 Syrah Tinaquaic Vineyard Santa Maria Valley

Inky ruby. Smoky dark berries and cherry compote on the perfumed, floral-accented nose. Supple, sweet and broad on entry, then tighter in the mid-palate, offering spicy cassis, cherry-cola, candied violet flavors and a touch of cured meat. Rich but lively and focused, with a smooth, gently tannic finish and lingering florality. Very Syrah but also distinctly Californian as well.

91 Points

2011 Syrah Williamson-Doré Vineyard Santa Ynez Valley

Inky ruby. Textbook Syrah aromas of dark berries, olive tapenade, floral oils and cracked pepper. Fleshy, sweet and smooth on the palate, offering smoky cassis and blueberry flavors and a hint of vanilla. Surprisingly lithe for its power, with the peppery nuance adding bite to a very long, vanilla- and violet-tinged finish. This would be a great choice to serve alongside a smoky, pepper-crusted grilled steak.

91 Points

2012 Chardonnay Bien Nacido Vineyard – Block UU Santa Maria Valley

Light yellow. An exotically perfumed bouquet displays Viognier-

like scents of peach nectar, violet, honey and white pepper. Sappy and fine-grained on the palate, offering intense pit fruit and orange flavors and a suave floral quality. Lively, focused and spicy on the finish, showing good energy and closing cut. This wine has a relatively low pH of 3.21.

91 Points

2011 Cuveé Jeanne Marie Williamson-Doré Vineyard Santa Ynez Valley

78% Grenache and 22% Mourvedre. Inky ruby. Black and blue fruits on the perfumed, pepper-accented nose and in the mouth. Rich but energetic, with good juicy lift and an exotic floral pastille nuance. Youthfully taut tannins give grip to a long, spicy and persistent finish. This wine benefits considerably from an hour or so of aeration.

90(+) Points

2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Vogelzang Vineyard Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara

Opaque ruby. Oak-spiced cherry and cassis on the nose, along with notes of licorice, pipe tobacco and vanilla. Plush and open-knit, offering powerful dark berry compote flavors and a hint of bitter chocolate. Stretches out with air and picks up a subtle floral quality that carries through a long, youthfully tannic finish. By all means give this one some air.

90 Points

2012 Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley

Vivid red. Fresh red berry and floral scents show very good clarity and pick up a spicy nuance with air. Silky and seamless in texture, offering gently sweet raspberry and cherry flavors and a touch of florality. Closes silky and long, with gentle tannins and lingering spiciness.

90 Points

2012 Chardonnay Tinaquaic Vineyard Santa Maria Valley

Light yellow-gold. Waxy aromas of dried pear, citrus pith and anise, with a subtle smoky overtone. Fleshy but dry, offering bitter pear skin, quince and lemon zest flavors and a deeper suggestion of buttered toast. Finishes on a suave floral note, with very good cut and length.

90 Points

2011 Pinot Noir John Sebastiano Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

Ripe aromas of musky dark fruits, licorice and wood smoke. Full, fat and sweet, with chewy texture and serious heft to its cassis

and bitter cherry flavors; definitely in a rather masculine style for Pinot, but not missing balance. Closes with firm grip and slow-building tannins, leaving a dark berry note behind.

90 Points

2011 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard – Block 8 Santa Maria Valley
Bright ruby. Powerful, heady aromas of dark berry preserves, vanilla, mocha and wood smoke. Opulent and emphatically fruity, offering black raspberry and vanilla bean flavors that coat the palate. What this Pinot lacks in delicacy it makes up for with heft and decadent fruit. Finishes sweet, smoky and long, with a strong echo of vanilla. Fans of large-scaled Pinot will go nuts for this one, while those in the proverbial pursuit of balance will no doubt demur; I suspect that both camps will disagree with my score.

90 Points

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wineaccess.com/tanzer

2007 Chardonnay Bien Nacido Vineyard, Block UU-Santa Maria Valley

Yellow-gold, Exotically perfumed bouquet of smoky orchard fruit and melon, with notes of toasty lees and anise. Densely packed pear and honeydew flavors are enlivened by dusty minerals and pick up a note of sweet pineapple with air. Finishes on a spicy note, with good length and a gentle hint of sweet tropical fruits. 89 Points.

2007 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard, Block 8-Santa Maria Valley

Deep red. Highly perfumed bouquet shows spicy red berries, incense and dried rose. Pretty exotic stuff, offering sweet strawberry and raspberry flavors and a refreshing note of bitter cherry skin. The finish delivers solid punch and lingers with impressive persistence. 91 points.

California Grapevine-November 1st, 2009

90 Points- 2008 Chardonnay Tinaquaic Vineyard

Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, toasty, baked apple pie aroma with notes of espresso, hazelnut, and vanilla; medium-full to full body; rich, plush, fleshy, apple and pineapple flavors with a pleasing mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and shows some finesse. Very highly recommended.

90 Points-2007 Pinot Noir Sea Smoke Vineyard

Medium purplish ruby color; attractive, stemmy, cherry and boysenberry fruit aroma with notes of clove and vanilla; medium-full to full body; well focused, textured, dark cherry fruit flavors with a rich, supple, slightly creamy

mouthfeel; medium-full tannin; slightly harsh on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended.

90 Points-2007 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard

Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, ripe, plummy, cherry and strawberry fruit aroma with a note of clove; medium-full to full body; rich, textured, cherry and cranberry fruit flavors; well balanced and firmly structured; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended.

89 Points-2007 Pinot Noir Julias Vineyard

Medium ruby; spicy, fragrant, earthy, raspberry fruit aroma with hints of smoked sausage and a trace of charred oak; medium-full to full body; forward, rich, plummy, ripe raspberry and cherry fruit flavors with notes of cola and creamy oak; firmly structured; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended.