



## Reviews

### **Dutton Goldfield 2005 Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir**

The scents of curry, sweat and cumin that dominate the wine when it's first poured. That proves to be incipient complexity, as a day of air brings a subtler, intriguing spice, and another day brings freshness, like the salt air off the Pacific. The structure is firm, the fruit dark red.

**92 Points**

### **J. Rochioli 2005 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir**

The beauty of this wine is in the aroma, a foresty dark cherry scent that mingles with the cinnamon stick essence of new oak. The flavors haven't fully developed yet, though the wine feels generous, sappy and rich. It finishes clean, as if waiting for the aroma to extend through the wine and last.

**91 Points**

### **Alderbrook 2005 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir**

A light, transparent rose, color, this pinot has gentle, earthy black tannin to surround its red raspberry fruit. It feels clean and tight, a fine red pour with roast salmon.

**90 Points**

### **Adelsheim 2006 Willamette Valley Elizabeth's Reserve Pinot Noir**

Fairly opaque when first poured, with air this wine reveals an exquisite form, built on ethereal dark cherry flavor and a persistent freshness that lifts the finish. It shows the exuberance of the vintage

**93 Points**

### **Adelsheim 2006 Dundee Hills Goldschmidt Vineyard Pinot Noir**

This yields little more than red earth scents at first. A bit of air loosens up the wine as generous black cherry and beetroot flavors deepen the middle of it. The texture is lush and sensuous, while fine tannins give the finish a light, lacy feel.

**93 Points**

### **Adelsheim 2006 Chehalem Mountains Bryan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir**

This wine's exuberant raspberry fruit takes on a tealike, earthy bass note with a day's air, suggesting it's a long way from full expression. Its precocious flavors have the balance to develop in the cellar.

**92 Points**

### **Hangtime 2006 Arroyo Seco Force Canyon Vineyard Pinot Noir**

An earthy, almost umami savor brings balance to the rich strawberry flavors in this juicy pinot noir. The full, chewy tannins suggest pairing this grilled pork. (Best Buy)

**86 Points**

**Hangtime 2006 Carneros Napa Valley Gallery Vineyard Pinot Noir**

Red fruit scents of raspberry and cranberry lend this pinot a cool tone. It's simple and firmly built, with a touch of tarriness to the tannin. (Best Buy)

**92 Points**

**Archery Summit 2005 Dundee Hills Archery Summit Estate Pinot Noir**

Bearing the imprint of the aging in the new oak, this wine has the amplitude to fill its structured with rich, warm flavors of black plum and cocoa. Formidable in the middle, it finishes with grace.

**92 Points**

**Chehalem 2006 Willamette Valley 3 Vineyard Pinot Noir**

Ripe as a summer plum and showing an inky, earthy side, this wine takes a day to reveal its brighter fruit flavors, red strawberry dusted with red earth. For all its ripeness, a lacy structure give the wine elegance and lift, with a nutskin feel to the tannins that calls for tortelloni stuffed with mushrooms.

**92 Points**

**Doamine Serene 2004 Willamette Valley Grace Vineyard Pinot Noir**

This wine is unusually bright and accessible in 2004. Its sweet red cherry fruit is brisk and inviting, backed with a darker molasses note of oak. It's clean, balanced, composed and long.

**92 Points**

**Soter 2005 Yamhill-Carlton District Mineral Springs Pinot Noir**

Like a bowl of fresh black cherries sprinkled with mint, this wine's aromas seem forward and youthful. The palate is elegant, silky and dark, with scents of gingerbread giving over to fig and cardamom.

**92 Points**

**Willakenzie Estate 2004 Willamette Valley Alette Pinot Noir**

After a few short minutes it yields aromas of black cherry, the fruit providing context for scents of black earth and smoke. The flavors also turn brighter with air, balanced with broad, muscular tannin.

**92 Points**

**Willakenzie Estate 2004 Willamette Valley Triple Black Slopes Pinot Noir**

The aromas all point to a massive pinot, so it's a delight to find the palate so delicate and bright. Its black cherry flavors are deep, yet pristine, with a firm finish tingled with the flavors of thyme.

**92 Points**

**Adelsheim 2006 Eola-Amity Hills Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir**

This wine leads with scents of pine and wild woodland berries. Its flavors are present but shy, its texture suggests the wine is built for long aging. When it's mature, it will match juniper roasted pork.

**91 Points**

**Archery Summit 2005 Dundee Hills Renegade Ridge Estate Pinot Noir**

A tingle of herb, accenting black cherry aromas suggests this wine still needs to find legs. With extensive air, the fruit takes on a red currant hue; the texture becomes fleshy, the oaky finely rendered, with good acidity and a tangy minerality.

**91 Points**



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**Ponzi 2006 Willamette Valley Tavola Pinot Noir**

Scents of sassafras highlight this wine's aromas of black cherries and plum; its flavors are of juicy, ripe red cherry tingled with Mexican chocolate and black tea. Its midly grainy texture suggests good bones.

**91 Points**

**Ponzi 2006 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir**

A wine with plenty of mass to accent sweet plum compote scents, lemon oil and anise. It's big, with a dark, fleshy texture; even so, brisk acids manage to lift the wine in the finish.

**91 Points**

**Stoller 2005 Dundee Hills Estate Grown Pinot Noir**

Lush and forward, this has the scent of just-cooked raspberry jam, fresh and sweet, with a meaty note that instills it with a convincing savor. Its ripe, crowd-pleasing flavors would pair well with roasted chicken.

**91 Points**

**WillaKenzie Estate 2004 Willamette Valley Terres Basses Pinot Noir**

There is a fresh, kirschwasser scent in this wine, accented by forest floor aromas. Its lean, savory herbal flavors and earthy edge make a fine pairing with plank-roasted salmon.

**91 Points**

**Adelsheim 2006 Chehalem Mountains Calkins Lane Vineyard Pinot Noir**

This wine's aromas are rich and spicy, leading with gingerbread notes over dark, reticent scents of plum. Its feel is silky and fine, with sweet plum flavors and midly gripping tannins to mark the close.

**90 Points**

**Archery Summit 2005 Willamette Valley Premier Cuvee Pinot Noir**

This well-built wine feels a bit unformed at the moment, but it's easy to see its muscular contours. Aromas of cocoa support flavors of deep black cherry, oak rounding out the palate to give a firm and sensuous feel.

**90 Points**

**Domaine Serene 2004 Willamette Valley Mark Bradford Vineyard Pinot Noir**

Beneath scents of cinnamon and spiced cider is a fine sour cherry flavor; those savory spices are supported by plenty of lavish oak to fill the back end.

**90 Points**

**Domaine Serene 2004 Willamette Valley Jerusalem Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir**

This wine is closed at first, hidden within an impressive, fairly massive structure. Black plum scents emerge with air along with caramelized oak and a bit of tar. Still quite youthful and unformed on the palate.

**90 Points**

**Ponzi 2005 Willamette Valley Reserve Pinot Noir**

All potential at the moment, it's showing scents of sandalwood and lemon oil to accent black plum and deep core of spice, almost like roasted cinnamon. The plum and black cherry fruit gains ground with air, suggesting some staying power.

**90 Points**

**Stoller 2006 Dundee Hills JV Estate Pinot Noir**

Bright, youthful cherry scents lead this ripe, vibrant wine. Its succulent cherry flavors are generous, simple and delicious, with a fine dusty finish that makes this ideal with a lighter grilled fish, like tilapia.

**90 Points**

**Le Macchiole 2005 Bolgheri**

You can feel the peppery spice character and fine graphite tannin that it brings to the wine. The fruit tastes perfectly ripe, with flavors of cassis and spice that make it delicious to drink now; the wine's balance and poise suggest a very long life ahead.

**95 Points**

**Le Macchiole 2003 Bolgheri Paleo Cabernet Franc**

Initially hidden behind dense tannins, it comes alive with air, a steady brightness building from middle of the wine. Flavors of wild blackberries and dried herbs become more detailed over time, acting like agents of complexity over the wine's supple, juicy texture.

**93 Points**

**Ornellaia 2004 Bolgheri Superiore**

Closed at first behind a wall of tannin, this needs several hours to reveal its full potential. While those tannins remain strong, the flavor of the fruit—perfectly ripened to flavors of fig and black cherries during a long, even growing season—is what powers the wine.

**93 Points**

**Le Macchiole 2003 Bolgheri Messorio**

A dense, rich merlot from the Tuscan coast, this takes hours to unfold from behind its blanket of heavy tannins, a tough green edge that provides structure to a core of supple dark fruit.

**91 Points**

**Volpaia 2004 Chianti Classico Riserva Coltassala**

This wine feels shy when first poured, gradually revealing scents of dried roses and rosemary along with dark, plummy fruit. As time passes, it becomes more floral, strong tannins providing firm structure and savory length.

**94 Points**

**Castello di Volpaia 2004 Chianti Classico Riserva**

Compressed into espresso scents and iron-hard tannins, this wine needs a day of air to show itself. The extract evolves into rich, sweet cherry flavor, and the tannins grow more classical, a peppery caress.

**93 Points**

**Volpaia 2004 Chianti Classico**

Dark in tone, this Chianti is filled with plush cherry fruit that captures a moment of freshness and ripeness in the grapes. The flavors are bold and juicy, their subtle sweetness integrated seamlessly into the tannin, so the red fruit lasts long with earthier complexities. A sophisticated wine.

**92 Points**

**Felsina 2004 Chianti Classico Riserva**

This shows the darker, savory side of sangiovese, starting with aromas of cedar and ripe cherries and leading to flavors of plum and pine. The tannins feel substantial, offering plenty of leathery grip in this ageworthy riserva.

**90 Points**

**Conti Costanti 2001 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva**

This '01 Riserva is initially floral and bright, with dusty, high-toned cherry flavors, and firm mineral tannins. It feels elegant and lovely, growing more expansive and savory with air, the wine finding richness in the balance between minerality and fruit.

**94 Points**

**IL Palazzone 2001 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva**

This generous wine starts out sweet and easy with aromas of fresh bay leaf and dark cherry.

**90 Points**

**Conti Costanti 2005 Rosso di Montalcino Calbello**

This is a graceful and complex wine with scents of dried spices, red plums and a tartness of small woodland berries. It feels complete and delicious.

**92 Points**

**Conti Costanti 2005 Rosso di Montalcino**

Aromas of dried herbs and red cherry balance the oak flavors in this wine, making it feel more savory and defined. It finishes fresh, with a lingering taste of wild berries.

**90 Points**

**Solaria 2005 Rosso di Montalcino**

Gentle and traditional in tone, this wine balances flavors of dried roses and dusty raspberries with minty character. The meaty tannins provide the length and structure to pair this with grilled pork chops.

**90 Points**

**Gaja 2005 Toscana Ca' Marcanda Magari**

This feels classical in tone, from its dark fruit character to the firm edges of its peppery tannins. The youthful structure is intense, and should be more graceful with age.

**91 Points**

**Luce della Vite 2004 Toscana**

This vintage of Luce has appealing aromas of dried flowers and cool, jammy fruit. The assertive tannins mellow with air, the wine a friendly companion for a braised boar sugo.

**90 Points**

**Volpaia 2005 Chianti Classico**

Ferrous tannins give the ripe fruit in this wine a rustic edge. It should soften within another year or two.

(Best Buy)

**88 Points**



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**Terrabianca 2005 Chianti Classico Scassino**

Dark umami flavors support this wine's sweet primary fruit. The flavors of dark cherries and blackberries feel plush and round. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Ornellaia 2005 Tuscan Le Volte**

Made in an international style, this wine's ripe plummy fruit is forward and clean. The gentle texture and soft tannins will match pork tenderloin. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Schloss Gobelsburg 2006 Kamptal Steinsetz Gruner Veltliner**

This combines dense, sappy richness with sleeky buoyant aroma, its flavors of guava, grapefruit pith, cucumber and lime feeling energetic and finely detailed. It's underlined by stony, savory minerality that adds dimension and complexity to the fruit.

**93 Points**

**Brundlmayer 2006 Kamptal Kamptaler Terrassen Gruner Veltliner**

This is an outstanding vintage of Terrassen, its crystalline flavors feeling concentrated yet clearly defined. The mineral components are seamlessly wound around the fruit aromas of guava, kaffir lime and grapefruit pith, and the finish is racy and taut.

**92 Points**

**Hirsch 2006 Kamptal Heiligenstein Gruner Veltliner**

The sweet apricot and tangerine fruit feels tightly knit and rigidly precise, its mouthfilling breadth backed by pleasant hints of leafy tobacco and sage. It's vivid and persistent, turning increasingly stony on the finish.

**90 Points**

**Kirchmayr 1995 Wachau Wunderberg Solist Gruner Veltliner**

This is a fully mature, balancing notes of floral honey, dried peach and candied apple against more secondary notes of leather and earth. It's balancing and inviting, kept buoyant by fresh acidity.

**90 Points**

**Laurenz V. 2006 Kamptal Charming Gruner Veltliner**

Rich and earthy, this shows broad notes of guava and preserved lemon, tightly wound in a finely detailed structure. The texture is silky and alluring, and the saline mineral notes become more intense the longer it sits in the glass.

**90 Points**

**Nigl 2006 Kremstal Kremser Freiheit Gruner Veltliner**

Apricot and pear notes are crisp and clean, with suave texture on the palate and a phenolic bite on the finish. It's lively and tense, the high-toned fruit aromas persisting with fine length.

**90 Points**

**Brundalmayer 2006 Kamptal Langenloiser Steinmassel Riesling**

Racy, tightly wound flavors of apple and green melon are leesy and brisk, finishing with a wash of salty minerality.

**93 Points**

**Hirsch 2006 Kamptal Gaisberg Riesling**

This is slow to unwind, needing to be decanted for its ripe pear, papaya and nectarine notes to emerge fully. The knifelike acidity and minerality elongate the flavors and allow them to expand with subtle detail and elegant length. It's nearly forceful now and should blossom beautifully in the cellar.

**93 Points**

**Brundalymayer 2006 Kamptal Kamptaler Terrassen Riesling**

Floral flavors of white peach, pear and honeysuckle feel pure and delicate, persistent in the intense yet deftly poised fragrance. The overall picture is one of clarity, elegance and grace.

**91 Points**

**Brandl 2006 Kamptal Kogelberg Riesling**

Exotic flavors of papaya and pineapple mingle with limelike acidity and apple-skin bitterness. It's almost forceful in its flavor intensity while remaining relatively light in body, which creates a pleasing sense of tension and energy.

**90 Points**

**Brandl 2006 Kamptal Heiligenstein Riesling**

This is very ripe, with fleshy flavors of pineapple, nectarine and mango, yet underneath the rich fruit the lime-like acidity is zesty and persistent. It finishes with broadly expansive fragrance and cleanly satisfying length.

**90 Points**

**Salamon-Undhof 2006 Kremstal Undhof Kogl Riesling**

Lively and fragrant, this gains rich, suede-like texture as it sits in the glass, complementing the bright aromas of mandarin orange, kumquat and white peach. It's vivid and tense on the finish, with the minerality verve of steep, terraced vineyards.

**90 Points**

**Anton Iby 2006 Mittelburgenland Chevalier Reserve**

Fragrant and rich, this Blaufränkisch shows taut, fresh notes of berry and cherry along with undertones of mint and spice. The tannins are suave and silky, making this feel terrifically elegant and poised.

**91 Points**

**Leth 2006 Wagram-Donauland Lagenreserve Steinagrund Gruner Veltliner**

This contrasts cool, zesty notes of lime and cucumber against a richly lessy texture, the whole package feeling energetic and lithe as it races across the palate. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Leth 2006 Wagram-Donauland Reserve Felsler Weinberge Riesling**

Sleek, shapely lime blossom, apple candy and green mango aromas are complemented by a waxy, suede-like texture and held in taut suspension by racy acidity.

**88 Points (Best Buy)**

**Hirsch 2006 Kamptal Veltliner #1 Gruner Veltliner**

Fresh flavors of grapefruit and green papaya are delicate and summery, with firm depth on the palate and brightly refreshing acidity on the finish. (Best Buy)

**87 Points**

**Hofer 2006 Weinviertel Freiberg Gruner Veltliner**

This is fresh, bright, and fragrant, with waxy notes of pear and lime, accented by peppery spice. It's light and crisp, finishing with brisk acidity. (Best Buy)

**87 Points**

**K. Alphart 2006 Thermenregion Veltliner & Co.**

This shows waxy notes of red apple and lemon zest, with a broad, earthy richness and fresh, floral aromas in the finish. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Anton Iby 2006 Mittelburgenland Classic Zweigelt**

This shows a savory element under bright notes of cranberry and black currant. Its high acidity needs rich food. (Best Buy)

**87 Points**

**Clos Pegase 2006 Carneros Napa Valley Mitsuko's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc**

The floral peach character of this wine gives it a viognier tone. In fact, the aromatic character comes from the musque clone of sauvignon blanc. This is rich and earthy, substantial both in its alcohol and fruit.

**90 Points**

**Frog's Leap 2004 Rutherford Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**

This shows the breed of a well-grown Rutherford cabernet; its tannins have a finesse for which the region's vineyards on rocky alluvial soils are famous. There's a cool, bright core in the midst of that tannic warmth.

**91 Points**

**Novy 2006 Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard Chardonnay**

A clean burst of lime drives this wine, bringing freshness to its underlying mineral flavors. A leaner style of chardonnay for this particular vineyard. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Clos Pegase 2004 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**

A full of sweet black plum and mocha flavors, this cabernet ends on a note of pencil lead. (Best Buy)

**87 Points**

**Frog's Leap 2005 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**

Light in the middle, this wine's flavors of baked plums and prunes are soft and ready for steak. (Best Buy)

**87 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru**

It feels tense and constricted, all the elements there but hidden, a scrim of lime, a layer of fresh pear and wheat. It also feels classical. The depth and complexity will reward years in the cellar.

**94 Points**

**Vincent-Girardin 2005 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Referts**

A subtle wine in its youth, this has an inner strength that bodes well for long development in the cellar. The aromas give more than lessy scent of fresh wheat and straw; the flavors are pure mineral. Even as it grows more powerful and complex with air, the wine remains clean and focused. Suited to long aging.

**93 Points**

**J.M. Boillot 2005 Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru Macherelles**

Delicate floral scents introduce this tense young Chassagne. It packs a lot of flavor into a tight middle, then explodes into a mineral-laden finish, lasting with a sense of the limestone soil of the Cote. The fruit ripened to the juicy flavors of a firm white peach, but there no overt sense of alcohol.

**92 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Meursault Les Narvaux**

A mineral character balances the opulent oak influence of this wine. Those savory and sweet elements meld into a mouthwatering flavor of pralines, lasting with incipient complexity.

**90 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**

Spot-on Chassagne, this tastes of colorful citrus, from lemon yellow to orange. It's fragrant and fresh, juicy right in the middle, then delicate and lasting in the end. A lovely white for sole with slivered almonds.

**90 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Puligny-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**

Stately, plump richness marks this young Puligny. The aromas develop from caramel toward jasmine and white nectarine, the constant being a mineral savor that centers the wine. More powerful than you might expect from a villages wine.

**90 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Gevery-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes**

Black and juicy, this Gevery grew dense in '05 with meaty tannin and wild raspberry flavors that last. The flavors are potent while maintaining a certain refinement, it over delivers for a villages wine.

**91 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Beaune 1er Cru Les Bressandes**

A velvet rush of raspberry, this Beaune has a bold and explosive New World appeal. Underneath all that fruit, there's a clean structure that will readily hold the wine as it develops greater complexity.

**91 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Santenay 1er Cru La Maladiere**

Girardin grew this wine at his domaine, and fashioned it with a remarkably strong sense of place. This feels healthy and sure, with tart red fruit balancing fine-grained tannins.

**91 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Savigny-les-Beaune Les Vermots Dessus**

A gentle, savory white burgundy, this wine's baked pear flavors give it a buttery roundness. It finishes soft and warm; well-knit for boudin blanc. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 Rully 1er Cru Les Cloux**

Broad flavors of orange and kiwi last through this clean, zesty white. Alcohol sweetens the end. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Vincent Girardin 2005 St. Aubin 1er Cru Les Murgers de Dents de Chiens**

Mild and ripe, this has the baked fruit flavors of a lemon flan. Scents of nutmeg and honey last in the finish. (Best Buy)

**88 Points**

**Vincent Delaporte 2006 Sancerre Chavignol**

Crisp apple and sweet pea notes are contrasted by a savory, quincelike undertone that complicates the bright fruit aromas. It feels taut and tense, with a long and aromatic finish.

**91 Points**

**Quinta do Vallado 2005 Douro Reserva**

This is youthfully tight and unyielding, a dark red wine compressed into cool spice. Air brings out the complexity and supple elegance of the fruit. The wine turns out to ornate, with layers of flavor from the dark cherry to mulberry and porcini mushroom. Higher up, there's floral character that plays with the peppery spice.

**94 Points**

**Altano 2005 Duro Reserva**

A combination of lush blue fruit and crisply lined tannins make this wine suited to roast suckling pig. There's a gamey aspect to balance the flavors of plum reserves.

**90 Points**