

PINOT NOIR 2009

GOOD AUSTRALIAN WINE GUIDE 2011

Nick Stock

Top NZ Pinot Noir

It's going to be a hard wine to knock off for this award, and the 2009 is yet another stunning wine. Ethereal depth, complexity and palate weight. You'll struggle to find better quality and value outside of Burgundy. The icon is in fine form once again, showing all the haunting complexity and swirling grace that sets this wine apart as New Zealand's pre-eminent pinot noir. The perfumed, light, sweet rose petals are here - really sweet and alluring - along with plenty of ripe, red-cherry fruits and all manner of fine-dusted spices scattered throughout. The palate sweeps out a web of finely meshed tannin that has incredible depth, yet carries an immense sense of delicacy and elegance. Bright cherry flavours run the gamut, there's some toasty French oak built into the mix, and the whole lot lifts effortlessly through the finish, leaving a tangy, balanced impression. Superb, once again.

Ata Rangi Pinot Noir 2008 was also rated top NZ Pinot Noir in the Good Australia Wine Guide 2010 edition.

DAILY GRAPE

Gary Vaynerchuk, May 2011

Recommended

Ata Rangi Martinborough Pinot Noir 2009 - A very attractive nose, with fresh raspberry and cherry aromatics, and a little hint of flower shop. There's also a sea salt meets black pepper element. The palate is loaded with sour red fruits; pomegranate meets very sour red cherry, mixed with bitter twig and dark shaved chocolate. I like the elegance and especially appreciate the third to fourth quarter transition. Nice potential to age too, based on its structure. This is one of the more food friendly wines in this month's newsletter. Not the biggest Pinot you'll ever have but a great expression of the varietal. I love the savory, mineral quality on the finish. Give this 5-7 years in the cellar at this stage to continue improving, and then some late game heroics 15 years down the road.

AUSTRALIA GOURMET WINE TRAVELLER

Bob Campbell, April/May 2011

96/100

A heady, perfumed mix of floral, cherries, plum and spice in an elegant style. This is a wine of surprising power that lingers tantalisingly long after it has been swallowed. Truly seductive.

WINE ORBIT

Sam Kim, January 2011

97/100

This is youthful yet gloriously complex and perfumed on the nose displaying red/black cherry, spice and floral characters with hints of mushroom and cedar. The palate shows layers of sweet fruits, silky texture and fine, polished tannins. As it evolves in the glass, the bouquet becomes haunting, and the palate mind-blowingly delicious. A beautifully woven wine with extreme sensuality. At its best: 2012 to 2020. Screw cap.

SUNDAY STAR TIMES

Jane Skilton MW, November 2010

5 stars

Expensive, yes, but this really is a New Zealand superstar and so worth every penny. Delicious, even in youth, but really needs 5+ years. Outstanding.