



HARTFORD
COURT



December 2013, Issue #210
December 2014, Issue #216

95-97
POINTS

2012
FAR COAST VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

The 2012 Chardonnay Far Coast Vineyard comes from a site located on a mountain ridge north of Fort Ross. It was fermented with indigenous yeasts, and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered after spending 15 months in one-third new oak. A blockbuster Chardonnay, it boasts intense aromas of mangoes, Mandarin oranges, pineapples and wet rocks along with noticeable minerality, full body, and stunning purity as well as symmetry. Enjoy it over the next 5-7 years.

95-97
POINTS

2012
STONE CÔTE
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

The 2012 Chardonnay Stone Côte Vineyard (a block within the Durell Vineyard planted on gravelly riverbed soils) is 100% barrel-fermented and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. It exhibits a terrific wet rock/powdered stone-like minerality along with beautiful aromas of exotic fruits (mangoes and tangerines), great intensity, full body, terrific acidity, and 14.8% alcohol. This beautiful Burgundian-styled Chardonnay should be enjoyed over the next 7-8 years.

93-95
POINTS

2012
SEASCAPE VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

From a panoramic ridge top parcel west of the village of Occidental, the 2012 Chardonnay Seascape Vineyard possesses great balance, a burgeoning complexity, good freshness and lots of honeyed tropical fruits intermixed with notions of wet gravel, spice and oak. With fabulous fruit, a full-bodied mouthfeel and a long finish, it should drink well for 6-7 years.

92-94
POINTS

2012
FOG DANCE VINEYARD
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
CHARDONNAY

The 2012 Chardonnay Fog Dance Vineyard is from a hillside location in Green Valley that experiences the frequent fogs that roll in off the ocean. It exhibits abundant notes of Mandarin oranges and citrus oil intermixed with a hint of smoke (one-third new French oak is utilized), and a full-bodied, rich, crisp, layered mouthfeel with great elegance as well as purity.

93
POINTS

2013
FOUR HEARTS VINEYARDS
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
CHARDONNAY

From the Laguna Ridge sub-region of Russian River, the bottled 2013 Chardonnay Four Hearts Vineyard (1,200 cases made) is fashioned from such older Chardonnay clones as the Wente, Sees and Rued. It displays tremendous acidity, wonderful ripeness, a leaner, and a more premier cru Chablis-like style than the Three Jacks and Stone Cote cuvées. It should drink well for 5-7 years.

97
POINTS

2012
ARRENDELL VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Another prodigious effort is the 2012 Pinot Noir Arrendell Vineyard (nearly 300 cases produced), which comes from a site planted with the Martini clone of Pinot Noir in 1975. According to Don Hartford, this vineyard struggles to produce one ton of fruit per acre. This dense ruby/purple-colored 2012 offers up a big, sweet kiss of blackcurrants, black cherries, camphor, forest floor and violets. Round, opulent, full-bodied and lush with stunning purity and texture as well as a multidimensional personality, this unfiltered, unfiltered beauty can be enjoyed over the next decade.

96
POINTS

2012
FAR COAST VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

An outrageously superb effort, the 2012 Pinot Noir Far Coast Vineyard sees 25% new oak. It offers a flowery, black cherry, forest floor and underbrush-scented bouquet. Deep, full-bodied, stunningly concentrated, pure, rich and expansive on the palate, this knock-out wine should drink well for 10 years.

96
POINTS

2012
HAILEY'S BLOCK
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

The 2012 Pinot Noir Hailey's Block comes from a cold, windy area in Green Valley. In reality, it is a sub-portion of the Arrendell Vineyard. The wine, which sees 44% new French oak, possesses stunning intensity as well as notes of spring flowers, raspberries, wild strawberries and sweet black cherries, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, and a broad, savory richness. Drink 2015-2025.

93
POINTS

2012
FOG DANCE VINEYARD
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

The beautiful perfume of the 2012 Pinot Noir Fog Dance Vineyard offers notes of red and blackcurrants, plums, Asian soy, forest floor and hints of clove and spice. Medium to full-bodied and ripe, this compelling, delicious Pinot can be enjoyed over the next 7-8 years.



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2012
MULDUNE TRAIL
ANDERSON VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

The 2012 Pinot Noir Muldune Trail comes from the southern end of Anderson Valley at a 1,600 foot elevation. It exhibits cool-climate blueberry and raspberry fruit, medium body and lots of elegance. It comes across like a sexy, lush, full-bodied Volnay. Drink it over the next decade.

92
POINTS

2013
LAND'S EDGE VINEYARDS
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

The 2013 Pinot Noir Lands Edge Vineyard comes from a site situated less than five miles from the Pacific Ocean. Its deep ruby/plum color is followed by notes of charcoal, spring flowers, red and blackcurrants and cherries. Savory, ripe, elegant, and fresh, it can be drunk over the next 5-7 years.

91
POINTS

2012
SEASCAPE VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

From the coldest site, the 2012 Pinot Noir Seascape Vineyard reveals a dark ruby color along with lots of spice box, pomegranate, red currants, smoky herbs and forest floor notes. Savory with excellent richness and vibrant acidity, it can be drunk over the next 5-6 years.

90
POINTS

2012
MARIN COUNTY
PINOT NOIR

A new offering, the 2012 Pinot Noir Marin County comes from that wealthy county on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge on the way to Sonoma. Its dark ruby color is followed by notes of forest floor, autumnal vegetation, earth, cloves, black cherries and plums. Elegant, medium-bodied, refreshing and lighter-styled, but intense, it can be drunk over the next 5-6 years.

90
POINTS

2012
VELVET SISTERS VINEYARD
ANDERSON VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

From an estate vineyard in Anderson Valley, the 2012 Pinot Noir Velvet Sisters was made from Dijon clones 115, 667, 777 and the Pommard selection. This sees about 32% new oak. Abundant notes of blueberries, raspberries and red cherries jump from the glass of this elegant, attractive, medium-bodied effort that resembles a premier cru from the Côte de Beaune. Drink this cleanly made, fresh, impressive offering over the next 7-10 years.

HARTFORD

95
POINTS

2012
HIGHWIRE VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

The 2012 Zinfandel Highwire Vineyard, a site that is half head-pruned and half on a high wire trellising system, sees more new French oak (52%). A dense ruby/purple color is followed by a rich, full-bodied wine displaying lots of boysenberry, black raspberry and cherry fruit intermixed with hints of incense and Asian spice. Supple tannins and a big, pedal-to-the-metal, juicy, succulent style suggest it will drink well for 5-6 years.

93
POINTS

2012
JOLENE'S VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

The 2012 Zinfandel Jolene's Vineyard (300 cases produced) is a big, blockbuster effort. It possesses an unctuous texture as well as a huge nose of black raspberry, black cherry and floral notes with some charcuterie, roasted meat and bouquet garni in the background. Enjoy this supple, full-throttle red over the next 5-6 years.

92
POINTS

2012
FANUCCHI-WOOD ROAD VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

The dense purple-hued 2012 Zinfandel Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard offers plenty of peppery, black cherry and black currant fruit along with hints of licorice, underbrush and roasted Provencal herbs. It was aged in 42% new French Oak.

91
POINTS

2012
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

The 2012 Zinfandel Russian River was aged in 20% new French oak for nine months, then bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. It exhibits an opaque blue/purple color along with plenty of briery, berry fruit intermixed with hints of incense, Christmas fruitcake and spice. This exuberant, richly fruity, full-bodied Zin can be drunk over the next 4-5 years.

90
POINTS

2012
DINA'S VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

The 2012 Zinfandel Dina's Vineyard is a more Pinot Noir-styled Zinfandel with elegant black raspberry, kirsch, spring flower and spicy oak notes (35% new oak was utilized), and a medium-bodied, fine, lacy mouthfeel. It's a Zinfandel behaving like a premier cru red Burgundy. Enjoy it over the next 4-5 years.



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