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International Wine Cellar Loves '08 Oregon Pinot Noir

We are pleased to present Round 2 of our 2008 Oregon Pinot Noir campaign. Widely touted as the vintage of a lifetime, Josh Raynolds (*Int'l Wine Cellar*) just released his glowing reviews for the vintage and the wines.

"Universally acknowledged as one of best vintages since the industry began in the mid-1960s, 2008 yielded [Oregon] pinots that are deep, powerful, structured, with the potential to age in bottle into their second decade of life. Especially serendipitous was the fact that 2008 was a year in which quality was uniform up and down the valley. The caveat with 2008 is that the wines are not for early drinking. Jim Anderson, co-owner of Patricia Green Cellars, describes 2008 as 'in complete forget-it mode' right now. It's a unique year...the fruit is so deep...They're all about power. [2008] is a dark-fruit year and right now the wines are clenched and brooding," — Josh Raynolds, Int'l Wine Cellar



Having tasted through this vintage, we wholeheartedly agree. The best news is that many of the wines offer tremendous value. Most of our selections come in at less than \$40 per bottle, which is noteworthy for a collectors' vintage. While it's true that most of these wines will age gracefully for 10+ years, we also offer a selection of entry-level beauties that will drink well now.

Westrey Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2008 \$19.95 (\$26 list)

'2010 Value Priced Pinot Noir All-Americans', *PinotFile*: "13.5% alc. Winemakers are husband and wife team Amy Wesselman and David Autrey. Unfiltered. Moderate reddish-purple color in the glass. Lovely nose featuring dark red raspberries, ripe cherries and dried rose petals. Picks up fruit in the glass over time with notes of red hard cherry candy. Moderately light and soft on the palate with cherry notes persisting on the finish which features bright acidity. Can drink now, but like so many Oregon '08 Pinots, has the structure to age. Good (+). (8/2/10)"

Grochau Cellars Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2008 \$19.95 (\$24 list)

89 points (*Wine Spectator*): "Firm, with a peppery edge to the pretty raspberry and cherry flavors, picking up a pleasant tobacco note as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2015. 1,000 cases made. (2011)"

Stoller Pinot Noir Dundee Hills JV Estate 2008 \$19.95 (\$25 list)

90 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "The 2008 Pinot Noir JV Estate (JV for 'junior vines', the younger vines on the estate) is medium ruby-colored with a bouquet of spicy red fruits. On the palate it is medium-bodied with layers of savory red fruit, enough ripe tannin to evolve for 2-3 years, and excellent length. Its friendly price makes it an outstanding value in Pinot Noir. (Oct 2010)"

Bethel Heights Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Estate 2008 \$24.95 (\$30 list)

91 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "The 2008 Pinot Noir Estate Grown is a bit darker in color with an expansive, spicy bouquet, cherry, and black raspberry aromas leading to a

wine with excellent concentration, layers of fruit, and enough ripe tannin to evolve for 2-3 years. This well-balanced, lengthy wine will be at its best from 2012 to 2020. (Oct 2010)"

Belle Pente Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton 2008 \$24.95

The intention with this wine is a lighter, very accessible, uncomplicated style that is ready to drink upon release, and priced for everyday consumption (a Wednesday night wine!) Enjoy now with lighter dishes. 331 cases produced. Not yet reviewed; 2007 vintage rated 90 points by *International Wine Cellar*.

Cristom Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Mt. Jefferson Cuvée 2008 \$27.95

94 points and 'Best Buy' Wine & Spirits: "This pinot leads with an exotic mélange of stem spices -- caraway, anise, licorice -- adorning fresh, bright cherry flavors. There's beautiful tension between the bright fruit and savory elements, the finish focused and lifted at once, its lasting concentration a match for the complex flavors of fennel-roasted pork. (Feb 2011)"

Lemelson Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Thea's Selection 2008 \$29.95

91 points Jay Miller (Wine Advocate): "The 2008 Pinot Noir Thea's Selection exhibits a slightly roasted character along with notes of cedar, underbrush, clove, and black cherry. On the palate it has excellent grip, considerable density, savory flavors, and a forward personality. Although it has the ability to evolve for 1-2 years, it can be approached now and over the next 6-8 years. (Oct 2010)"

WillaKenzie Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Pierre Léon 2008 \$31.95 (\$41 list)

92 points Wine Spectator: "Firm in texture, with juicy red berry and red cherry flavors cutting through the veil of tannins, picking up cinnamon and clove nuances as the finish lingers. Best from 2012 through 2018. (5/11/11)"

Ponzi Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2008 \$31.95

91 points Josh Reynolds (International Wine Cellar): "Bright red. Sexy, high-pitched aromas of raspberry, cherry, pungent herbs and fresh rose, with a subtle note of allspice coming up with air. Juicy and open-knit on entry, then firmer in the mid-palate, offering sweet dark berry and cherry-cola flavors, with a dusting of tannins adding shape. Nicely ripe pinot with a suave finishing sweetness and very good length. This will be approachable early. (Jul/Aug 2010)"

Penner-Ash Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2008 \$34.95 (\$45 list)

91 points Jay Miller (Wine Advocate): "The medium ruby red 2008 Pinot Noir Willamette Valley displays an enticing nose of rose petal, incense, spice box, black cherry, and black raspberry. This leads to a medium-bodied wine with excellent grip, spicy black fruit flavors, good volume, and excellent length. It has the stuffing to evolve for 1-2 years but can be enjoyed now and over the next 6-8 years. (Oct 2010)"

Shea Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Estate 2008 \$35.95 (\$40 list)

93 points PinotReport: "Medium-deep ruby color; deep, ripe red cherry and earthy aromas; rich, deep, earthy red cherry flavors, some tannin and sweet oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep with great structure, this Pinot needs some time in the glass to open up. (5/31/10)"

Domaine Serene Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Yamhill Cuvée 2008 \$35.95 (\$42 list)

91 points Wine Spectator: "Pure and focused aromatically, with blueberry, plum, spice and loam aromas leaping from the glass. The firm tannins have bite, but the complex flavors shoot through on the lively finish. Shows depth and grace. Best from 2013 through 2018. (2011)"

Evening Land Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard 2008 \$36.95

92 points Wine Spectator: "Light and zesty, offering a lovely mineral note that wafts through the blackberry and currant fruit, coming together elegantly on the expressive finish. Drink now through 2018. 1,600 cases made. (10/27/10)"

WillaKenzie Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Emery Vineyard 2008 \$42.95

90 points Wine Spectator: "Velvety, with pretty red and black cherry notes competing for attention behind a veil of tannins. Lingers gently. Drink now through 2016. 800 cases made. (6/30/11)"

WillaKenzie Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Terres Basses Vineyard 2008 \$54.95

91 points Josh Reynolds (International Wine Cellar): "Bright ruby-red. Cherry-vanilla and cola on the nose, with a spicy element increasing with aeration. Deeply pitched, nicely concentrated dark fruit flavors are complemented by notes of black cardamom and clove. Dusty tannins build on the impressively long, gently chewy, sweet finish. I'd let this rest for another couple of years. (Jul/Aug 2011)"

WillaKenzie Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Triple Black Slopes Vineyard 2008 \$54.95

94 points Wine & Spirits: "The steepest hills at WillaKenzie offer the epitome of expression for the 2008 vintage: softly etched scents of tar and pine, a hint of black soil and black cherry. The balance is perfectly poised between fruit and earth, the flavors at peak ripeness but not overt, the finish driven by fruit tannin. Those tannins are on point, marked by the oak's expression of Asian spice. With so much life coursing through this fresh wine, it's delicious now with roast salmon, yet suited to further bottle age. (Aug 2011)"

Ponzi Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Reserve 2008 \$55.95

95 points Wine Enthusiast: "A gorgeous wine, lush and refined from the first sniff to the last swallow. Rose petals, cotton candy, chocolate-covered cherries -- it's a date in a bottle. As the wine rolls across the palate it seems to gain depth and detail, while keeping the exceptionally pretty fruit flavors front and center. Silky and lightly spicy, with cinnamon, toast, mocha and tobacco highlights. Editors' Choice. (Mar 2011)"

Beaux Frères Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge The Beaux Frères Vineyard 2008 \$71.95

(\$80 list)

94 points Josh Raynolds (International Wine Cellar): "Bright red. Highly perfumed, seductive bouquet of black raspberry, cherry-cola, incense and dried rose, with a slow-mounting mineral element. Lively but strikingly concentrated as well, offering incisive red fruit and floral pastille flavors underscored by intense spice and mineral qualities. Really stains the palate and finishes with superb clarity and juicy, spicy raspberry and cherry notes. Etzel told me that a tiny bit of stems were used in this year's wine. (Jul/Aug 2010)"

[Click here to see all 2008 Oregon Pinot Noirs currently available.](#)

Cheers,

Woodland Hills Wine Co.



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