

GEHRICKE, 2016 SONOMA COAST, ★★★+ \$120/6 (\$30)

Very good Pinot Noir: supple, full bodied, and moderately rich in flavor, it is balanced, lightly oaky, and lingering on the finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of cherry, plum jam, black tea, nutmeg, and toasty oak. Very good value. Aged 18 months in French oak. 4,720 cases. 14.3% [2020-2021] 707.996.8463

MacROSTIE WINERY & VINEYARDS, ★★★★★ 2017 SONOMA COAST, \$272 (\$34)

Screw cap. Excellent: supple and finely flavored, this Pinot Noir is a crisp, balanced wine, with rose petal, cherry, red currant, black tea, and oak aromas/flavors, and a long finish. Shows a bit of tannin; can develop further. Fine value. Aged 10 months in French oak barrels, 27% new. 3,884 cases. 14.5% [2021-2023] 707.996.4480

METZ ROAD, 2017 RIVERVIEW VINEYARD, MONTEREY, \$144/6 (\$36) ★★★★★

An excellent wine: very distinct in character and full bodied, this is a supple, ripely flavored, balanced Pinot Noir, with a long aftertaste. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of cherry, strawberry, black tea, clove, rose petal, and toasty oak. Fine value. Aged 15 months in French oak barrels, 35% new. Clones: 115, Pomard. 2,216 cases. 15% [2020-2021] 888.772.4343



MORGAN WINERY, 2017 TWELVE CLONES, SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS, ★★★★★ \$304 (\$38)

Very fine quality, this is a medium rich, full bodied Pinot Noir with refined character (cherry, kola nut, rose petal, raspberry, black tea, red licorice), light oakiness (vanilla, toast), and excellent balance. Very long finish. Can be aged a bit. Terrific value. Aged 9 months in French oak barrels, 40% new. 14.2% [2020-2023] 831.751.7777

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS, ★★★★★ 2017 CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY, \$280 (\$35)

Delicious Pinot Noir: supple, ripely flavored, and quite rich; a youthful wine with plum, strawberry jam, cherry, clove, rose petal, black tea, and oak aromas/flavors, good balance, and medium long finish. Hard to beat at the price. Can be aged a bit. 14.1% [2021-2023] 707.253.7153

PINOT NOIR — Expensive: \$321-\$640/case (\$40.10-\$80/btl. full retail)



ANCIEN WINES

- 2017 CARNEROS, \$344 (\$43) ★★★★★
- 2017 TOYON VINEYARD, CARNEROS, \$320/6 (\$60) ★★★★★
- 2017 'JOUISSANCE', RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$440 (\$55) ★★★★★+
- 2017 MINK VINEYARD, COOMBSVILLE, NAPA VALLEY, \$228/6 (\$57) ★★★★★

Ancien's 2017 Pinot Noirs are classic wines from their respective origins. The Carneros bottling (as it happens, from the Toyon Vineyard), is an excellent wine, and a fine value. It is full bodied, young, lightly tannic, and balanced, with intense aromas/flavors (plum, cherry, red currant, blueberry, black tea, toasty oak), and a firm, long finish. Great value. Warrants further aging. 14.2% ♦ The Toyon-designated bottling is a richer, more tannic wine, with finer character—a young Pinot Noir, in need of further aging. It is full bodied and intensely flavored (cherry, strawberry, black licorice, black tea, mint, toasty oak) with very good balance (for its age), and a long, somewhat tannic finish. Warrants 3+ more years of bottling aging. 5% whole cluster. Aged in French oak barrels, nearly half new. Clone: Pisoni. 45 cases. ♦ The Jouissance is a supple, full bodied, finely flavored wine with supple texture, excellent depth and balance, and a long, lightly tannic finish, *continued next page*