

PINOT NOIR

Pinot continues to fascinate the wine-loving, restaurant-going public. Coming in at a strong second place in the Most Popular Varieties part of our poll, pinot has 13.8 percent of respondents' top-selling wines, just 1.5 percent less than cabernet and nearly five percentage points higher than chardonnay.

If pinot overall remains strong, it's domestic examples that are driving interest. While California's Sonoma Coast earned three of the top five places on our list of the Most Popular Pinot Noirs, the Willamette Valley earned the most mentions overall, netting the highest share of points for any pinot-producing region in the poll.

Gramercy Tavern's Chris Raftery in NYC says he's not only seeing more people come in and ask for Willamette Valley pinots, but also asking about the difference between the AVAs within Willamette. Perhaps that's due in part to the fact that the Willamette has its own identity in terms of flavor and structure, he says. "People's palates are getting educated; they can tell the difference between bright red fruit of Sonoma Coast and darker spicy fruit of Willamette," he says.

Plus, there's the value aspect. "If someone wants to come out and drink Burgundy, you're warming up at \$125," says Matt Crawford, of Houston's *State of Grace*. "But if someone wants to come out and drink delicious pinot with an Old World essence, you can go Willamette and stay under \$100 and get great value."

MOST POPULAR PINOT NOIRS

Rank	Brand	Bottling	Avg. Price
1	Failla	Sonoma Coast Sonoma Coast Acquerello	\$81 \$77
2	Hirsch Vineyards	Sonoma Coast San Andreas Sonoma Coast Bohan Dillon	\$128 \$120
3	Cristom	Willamette Valley Mt. Jefferson Cuvée Eola-Amity Hills	\$75 \$99
4	Patricia Green Cellars	Willamette Valley Reserve	\$68
5	Flowers	Sonoma Coast	\$102
6	Merry Edwards	Russian River Valley	\$126
7	Adelsheim Vineyard	Willamette Valley	\$59
8	Bethel Heights Vineyard	Eola-Amity Hills Estate	\$80
9	Sea Smoke	Sta. Rita Hills Southing Sta. Rita Hills Ten	\$140 \$230
10	Littorai	Sonoma Coast Anderson Valley Les Larmes	\$117 \$127
11	Au Bon Climat	Santa Barbara	\$63
12	Emeritus	Russian River Valley Halberg Ranch	\$89
13	MacMurray Ranch	Russian River Valley Sonoma Coast	\$53 \$49
14	J. Christopher	Dundee Hills Volcanique Willamette Valley Cuvée Nostrana Willamette Valley	\$75 \$55 \$74
15	Domaine Serene	Willamette Valley Yamhill Cuvée Willamette Valley Evenstad Reserve	\$563 \$162

16	Elk Cove	Willamette Valley	\$66
17	Montinore Vineyards	Willamette Valley Willamette Valley Reserve	\$53 \$65
18	Domaine Taupenot-Merme	St-Romain	\$98
19	Bergstrom	Willamette Valley	\$95
20	Rex Hill Vineyards	Willamette Valley	\$52
21	Robert Sinskey Vineyards	Carneros	\$94
22	Belle Glos	Santa Maria Valley Clark & Telephone	\$94
	Erath	Oregon	\$41
	Argyle	Willamette Valley Willamette Valley Reserve	\$70 \$56
24	Lingua Franca	Eola-Amity Hills Avni	\$78
	St. Innocent	Willamette Valley Villages Cuvée Willamette Valley Freedom Hill	\$56 \$78
27	Peay	Sonoma Coast Scallop Shelf Sonoma Coast	\$170 \$88
28	Eyrie Vineyards	Willamette Valley Sisters Dundee Hills	\$115 \$80
	Teutonic Wine Co.	Willamette Valley Bellpine Chehalem Mountains Bergspitze Laurel Vineyard	\$75 \$60
30	Domaine Vincent Girardin	Bourgogne Bourgogne Cuvée St-Vincent	\$70 \$68
	Meiomi	California	\$51
32	Longplay	Chehalem Mountains Lia's Vineyard	\$69
	Saintsbury	North Coast Vivette Carneros	\$12 \$80
34	Bow & Arrow	Willamette Valley Vitae Springs	\$74
	Elouan	Oregon	\$52
36	Cambria Vineyard	Santa Maria Valley Bench Break Vineyard	\$60
	Lignier-Michelot	Morey-St-Denis Bourgogne	\$200 \$70



ERIN RYAN WHITE
August
NEW ORLEANS

I have my wine list set up so that it goes from Burgundy, into Oregon, and then into California. I tell guests that's intentional—drier French into Oregon, and then California—fruity, not as dry as French. Oregon is a sweet spot. There's more fruit. To get that from Burgundy, you have to spend \$185 on our wine list—for a *Nuit-St-Georges*.