

# The Press Democrat

## Scouting for the tastiest Thanksgiving high-end Sonoma County pinot noirs

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THE PRESS DEMOCRAT  
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Wine writer Peg Melnik had a blind tasting this week of high-end pinot noirs for Thanksgiving.

The flight was impressive and our wine-of-the-week winner — Sojourn, 2012 Sangiacomo Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir — just edged out the Merry Edwards, 2012 Georganne Pinot Noir. Both reeled in 4.5 stars. Peruse our list of quality pinot noirs.

## TOP PICK

**Sojourn, 2012 Sangiacomo Vineyard, Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir**, 14.5 percent alcohol, \$54. ★★★★★½

A complex pinot, with a range of flavors — bold cherry, anise and white pepper. The pinot's earthiness plays to its gorgeous fruit. Crisp acidity. A rock star.

## Other impressive wines

**Merry Edwards, 2012 Georganne, Russian River Valley Pinot Noir**, 14.4 percent, \$57. ★★★★★½

This aromatic pinot draws you in and its flavors make you linger. Complex, with notes of blueberry, cassis and cocoa. What wins you over is its depth. A knockout.

**MacPhail, 2012 Mardikian Estate, Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir**, 14.5 percent, \$85. ★★★★★h

Bright fruit marries well with a touch of earthiness in this pinot. Aromas and flavors of cherry, pomegranate and dried herbs. Worth the splurge.

**Patz & Hall, 2012 Jenkins Ranch Pinot Noir, 15.4 percent**, \$60. ★★★★★h

A lovely pinot with jammy fruit. Notes of raspberry, wild strawberry, white pepper and mineral. Refreshing acidity. Great balance. Lingering finish.

**Small Vines Wines, 2012 Estate Cuvee, Russian River Valley Pinot Noir**, 13.6 percent, \$55. ★★★★★h

This pinot has bright cherry, with a hint of cranberry, buoyed with crisp acidity. Herbs and spice in the mix, but it leads with its vibrant fruit. Impressive.

**Williams Selyem, 2012 Foss Vineyard, Sonoma County Pinot Noir, 14.2 percent**,

\$55. ★★★★★h

A complex pinot with layered flavors of black cherry, lavender and sandalwood. Bright acidity. Lovely.