



HARTFORD
COURT



December 2013, Issue #210

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.

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.

91-93
POINTS

2012
FOUR HEARTS VINEYARDS
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
CHARDONNAY

Very Corton-Charlemagne-like with lots of wet stone, white currant, quince and caramelized citrus characteristics, this full-bodied white was aged in 38% new oak and was bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. The wine possesses terrific acidity, and should age easily for 5-7 years.

95-97
POINTS

2012
SEASCAPE VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

From a panoramic ridge top parcel west of the village of Occidental, the 2012 Chardonnay Seascapes 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.

93-95
POINTS

2012
STONE COTE
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

The 2012 Chardonnay Stone Cote Vineyard (a block within the Durrell 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
POINTS

2011
ARRENDELL VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

The stunning 2011 Pinot Noir Arrendell Vineyard was cropped at 0.5 tons of fruit per acre. Planted in 1975 with the California Heritage clone of Martini, the fruit from this site often struggles to ripen fully, and is rarely harvested before Halloween. However, the quality makes these 38-year-old vines produce a gorgeously rich wine with blueberry, black raspberry, cherry, incense and a hint of damp forest floor. Complex and medium-bodied with loads of fruit, good acidity and sweet tannin, this is a sultry, exotic, classic Pinot Noir to drink over the next 5-6 years.

91
POINTS

2011
FAR COAST VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

The 2011 Pinot Noir Far Coast Vineyard is sourced from a high ridge on the Sonoma Coast. This powerful Pinot exhibits good opulence and richness along with lots of ripe pomegranate, black cherry and raspberry fruit intermixed with notions of spring flowers and forest floor. This complex, broad, savory Pinot should be drunk over the next 5-6 years.

90
POINTS

2011
FOG DANCE VINEYARD
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

The 2011 Pinot Noir Fog Dance Vineyard exhibits sweet berry fruit intermixed with notions of raspberries, underbrush, vanillin and spice. Medium-bodied, supple and charming, it can be enjoyed over the next 4-5 years.

90+
POINTS

2012
LAND'S EDGE VINEYARDS
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

The only 2012 Pinot Noir I tasted was the outstanding 2012 Pinot Noir Lands Edge Vineyard, a Sonoma Coast site situated only five miles from the Pacific Ocean. Bottled early, this wine, which only spent 10 months in barrel, exhibits lots of black fruits along with hints of forest floor, composty, fresh mushroom-like notes intermixed with spring flowers. This rich, complex Pinot Noir should drink well for 4-5 years.

91
POINTS

2011
VELVET SISTERS VINEYARD
ANDERSON VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

From Anderson Valley, the 2011 Pinot Noir Velvet Sisters displays the classic Anderson Valley profile of blueberry liqueur, acacia flowers and raspberries. This lovely, rich, medium-bodied, dark ruby-colored 2011 is about as sexy as a Pinot Noir can be. It should age well for 5-6 years.



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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.

92
POINTS

2012
HARTFORD VINEYARD
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. Vineyards.

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.

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.



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