



2008 Pinot Noirs, 2009 Chardonnays, and 2009 Zinfandels

HARTFORD COURT		
95 POINTS	2008 Arrendell Vineyard Russian River Valley PINOT NOIR	A stunning effort, the 2008 Pinot Noir Arrendell was bottled after 15 months in French oak (60% new). This dense ruby-colored, killer Pinot boasts abundant notes of kirsch liqueur, black raspberries, flowers and loamy soil. Full-bodied with stunning concentration, a broad, savory texture and impressive purity, this is a wine to drink over the next 5-7 years although it may last a decade or more.
922 POINTS	2008 Fog Dance Vineyards Green Valley of the Russian River Valley PINOT NOIR	the 2008 Pinot Noir Fog Dance Vineyard (made from Dijon clone 667) exhibits a deep ruby color along with sweet aromas of black cherries, black and red currants, crushed rocks, loamy soil and underbrush. With abundant minerality, silky tannins and an unexpected floral note, it should drink well for 4-6 years. It was fashioned from tiny yields because of the spring frosts.
91 POINTS	2008 MacLean's Block Russian River Valley PINOT NOIR	The 2008 Pinot Noir MacLean's Block comes from an east-facing slope not far from the town of Occidental. Another wine that is neither fined nor filtered, it displays a dark ruby hue as well as a lush texture and hints of pomegranate, raspberry, black cherry, toasty oak and earth. It should drink well for 3-4 years.
90 POINTS	2008 Sevens Bench Vineyard Los Carneros PINOT NOIR	The Cotes de Beaune premier cru-styled 2008 Pinot Noir Seven's Bench Vineyard comes from Dijon clones 667 and 777. It offers a dark ruby color, medium body and abundant aromas of vanilla, sassafras, pomegranate and sweet and sour cherries. It possesses more charm and flesh than the Hailey's Block, and both cuvees are best consumed during their first 3-5 years of life.
92-94	2009 Stone Côte Vineyard Sonoma Coast CHARDONNAY	One of my perennial favorites, the 2009 Chardonnay Stone Côte Vineyard (actually a block of vines within the Durell Vineyard) enjoys indigenous yeast fermentation, aging in French oak, and bottling without filtration. It exhibits lots of green apple, honeyed melon, quince and nectarine notes in its full-bodied, beautifully textured, crisp, fresh yet substantial personality. It should drink well for 3-4 years.
92-94 POINTS	2009 Fog Dance Vineyards Green Valley of the Russian River Valley CHARDONNAY	More orange rind, tropical fruit blossoms and citrus oil characteristics are found in the 2009 Chardonnay Fog Dance Vineyard. Like its siblings, it is kept in barrel for approximately 15 months prior to being bottled unfiltered. It, too, should drink nicely for 3-4 years.
91-93 POINTS	2009 Four Hearts Vineyards Russian River Valley CHARDONNAY	The 2009 Chardonnay Four Hearts Vineyard sees less new oak than its two siblings. It reveals elegant tropical fruit, citrus oil, pear and white peach notes in a medium to full-bodied, crisp, zesty style. It can be enjoyed over the next 4-5 years.
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95 POINTS	2009 Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard Russian River Valley ZINFANDEL	There are nearly 300 cases of the 2009 Zinfandel Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard, another century old vine Zinfandel. The most concentrated, lavishly rich, exuberant offering in this portfolio, it boasts a dense ruby/purple color in addition to an extra gear or two as well as abundant amounts of boysenberry, blueberry and black raspberry fruit intermixed with spice, pepper and hints of wood. With beautiful purity and vivaciousness, this prodigious Zinfandel is about as good as it gets for this varietal. Drink this opulent, flamboyant Zin over the next 5-7 years.
95 POINTS	2009 Highwire Vineyard Russian River Valley ZINFANDEL	The 2009 Zinfandel Highwire Vineyard exhibits a beautiful floral berry note, a Pinot Noir-like delicacy and sensibility, medium to full-bodied flavors and stunning purity, fleshiness and texture. Like its siblings, it is complex, supple textured, full-bodied, and a tour de force in Zinfandel wine production. It should drink nicely for 5-7 years.
94 POINTS	2009 Dina's Vineyard Russian River Valley ZINFANDEL	From another iconic site for Hartford, the dense ruby/purple-colored 2009 Zinfandel Dina's Vineyard (a 94-year old vineyard) exhibits beautiful boysenberry, blueberry and blackberry fruit along with a flinty, graphite, earthy character. This full-bodied effort is a brilliant example of both the vintage and the varietal. It should drink well for 5-7 years.
94 POINTS	2009 Jolene's Vineyard Russian River Valley ZINFANDEL	The 2009 Zinfandel Jolene's Vineyard was bottled without fining or filtration. It exhibits a deeper ruby/purple color along with abundant notes of loamy soil, boysenberries, black cherries and a garrigue-like character that is reminiscent of a southern France Rhone Valley wine. The perfumed style is in keeping with the personality of this charming, fruit-forward, fragrant vintage. Drink this medium to full-bodied, juicy, impeccably pure Zinfandel over the next 7-8 years.
93 POINTS	2009 Hartford Vineyard Russian River Valley ZINFANDEL	The 2009 Zinfandel Old Vine walks a hypothetical path between the complexity, foresty, spicy notes of Pinot Noir and the exuberant, ripe, rich blue and black fruits of Zinfandel. Blackberry, blueberry, black cherry, pepper, spice and forest floor characteristics result in a complex, medium to full-bodied, supple-textured Zinfandel. This gorgeous Zin is already irresistible and should drink nicely for 4-5 years.
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