



HARTFORD
COURT

Stephen Tanzer's

INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

MAY / JUNE 2014

92
POINTS

2012
FAR COAST VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

Pale gold. A heady, mineral-dominated bouquet evokes dried orchard fruits, white flowers, iodine and anise. Stains the palate with vibrant apple and tangerine flavors that become spicier and livelier with air. Rich but vibrant and light on its feet, finishing with powerful thrust and building smokiness.

92
POINTS

2012
FOG DANCE VINEYARD
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
CHARDONNAY

Light yellow. Heady aromas of mineral-accented citrus and orchard fruits, fig, iodine and smoky lees, with a sexy floral quality emerging with air. Offers palate-staining pear and Meyer lemon flavors complemented by deeper notes of honey and sweet butter. Powerful yet lithe and precise, finishing with excellent cling and an echo of iodine.

92
POINTS

2012
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

Pale gold. A wild, highly complex bouquet displays orange pith, iodine, anise and shiso leaf. Spicy, penetrating and pure, offering an array of citrus and orchard fruit flavors that pick up a strong mineral quality with air. In a decidedly savory style, with strong finishing punch and lingering spiciness. Fruit is taking a back seat here today.

91
POINTS

2012
FOUR HEARTS VINEYARDS
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
CHARDONNAY

Pale gold. Deeply pitched pit and orchard fruit scents are enlivened by smoky mineral and orange zest qualities and pick up a floral nuance with air. Sappy and slow to open, offering densely packed pear and nectarine flavors and a hint of ginger. Finishes long and pure, with resonating minerality and lingering honeysuckle and citrus pith notes.

90
POINTS

2012
STONE CÔTE
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

Pale gold. An exotically perfumed bouquet evokes fresh melon, white peach and smoky lees, with a hint of lemon curd adding lift. Open-knit honeydew and pit fruit flavors are given spine by tangy acidity and complemented by suggestions of buttered toast and minerals. Plump, weighty and broad on the powerful finish, with the peachy note repeating.

90
POINTS

2012
THREE JACKS VINEYARD
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
CHARDONNAY

Bright gold. Exotic perfume of nectarine, poached pear and orange, with a buttery undertone. Juicy, broad and concentrated, offering ripe pit and orchard fruit flavors with a sweetening touch of vanilla. Broader and lusher than the Stone Côte bottling but not lacking for energy. Finishes smooth and long, with building smokiness and minerality.

92+
POINTS

2012
ARRENDELL VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Glass-staining ruby. Brooding dark berry, kirsch and licorice aromas and flavors are enlivened by a zesty blood orange nuance and an intense floral quality. Dense and chewy in texture initially but softens and becomes livelier with aeration. Shows excellent power and focus on the finish, which is firmed by dusty tannins and a touch of smoky minerality. The yield from this vineyard was reportedly under a half ton per acre in 2012.

92
POINTS

2012
FAR COAST VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

Bright ruby. Deeply pitched red fruit preserve, anise and incense aromas are lifted by a sexy floral element. Stains the palate with sweet raspberry and rose pastille flavors, picking up notes of mocha and vanilla with air. Distinctly energetic and pure, with a seamless texture and a firm spine of acidity contributing structure. Finishes sweet, floral and very long, with subtle tannins building slowly and fading smoothly into the wine's fruit.

91
POINTS

2012
JENNIFER'S
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Vivid ruby. Fresh dark berries and cherry-cola on the nose, with smoky spice and lavender notes adding complexity. Supple and broad on entry, then tighter in the mid-palate, offering bitter cherry and anise flavors and a touch of succulent herbs. Lingers with appealing sweetness, supple tannins and excellent nervy persistence.

91
POINTS

2012
SEASCAPE VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

Vivid red. Cherry-cola, iron and sexy oak spices on the fragrant nose, with a mineral nuance building with air. Concentrated but lithe and precise, offering juicy dark berry and cherry compote flavors and a touch of exotic spices. The cola and mineral qualities come back on the finish, which shows excellent clarity and silky tannins.

91
POINTS

2012
VELVET SISTERS
ANDERSON VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Vivid ruby-red. Powerful aromas of black raspberry, Indian spices, anise and violet are complemented by a smoky mineral quality. Fleshy, gently sweet red and dark berry flavors become more tangy with air and pick up an exotic floral pastille nuance. This weighty but lively pinot finishes with supple tannins, repeating spiciness and very good persistence.



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POINTS

2012
FOG DANCE VINEYARDS
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Ruby-red. Oak-spiced red berry and blood orange aromas and flavors are complemented by succulent herb and floral nuances. Shows appealing sweetness and focus, with silky texture and a strong star anise quality. The floral note builds through the finish, which is given shape by supple, harmonious tannins that merge smoothly with the wine's intense fruit.

91
POINTS

2012
HAILEY'S BLOCK
GREEN VALLEY OF THE
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Bright ruby. Seductive bouquet of red and dark berries, rose, cocoa powder and smoky Indian spices. Vibrant black raspberry and candied cherry flavors are lifted by smoky minerals, becoming deeper and spicier with air. The impressively bright, focused finish features building tannins and a hint of star anise.

91
POINTS

2012
SEVENS BENCH VINEYARD
CARNEROS
PINOT NOIR

Vivid ruby-red. Pungent aromas of cherry pit, vanilla and beetroot are civilized by a suave floral nuance. Juicy and nervy on the palate, offering zesty redcurrant and bitter cherry flavors that gain sweetness with air. Closes tangy and long, with gentle tannins coming on late.

90+
POINTS

2012
MACLEAN'S BLOCK
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Vivid ruby. Pungent aromas of dark berries, cherry pit and smoky minerals, with a hint of fresh herbs in the background. Juicy and precise, offering bitter cherry and black raspberry flavors that gain in sweetness and energy with air. Closes on a spicy note, with strong mineral cut and silky, slow-building tannins. This youthful pinot responds nicely to aeration.

90
POINTS

2012
MARIN COUNTY
PINOT NOIR

Bright red. Zesty red berry and Asian spice scents are complemented by deeper-pitched notes of licorice and mocha. Shows vibrancy and tension on the palate, offering bitter cherry and redcurrant flavors and a touch of earthiness. Closes tangy and long, with slow-building tannins lending shape.

HARTFORD

92
POINTS

2012
HIGHWIRE VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

Bright ruby. Intense red and dark berry scents show very good energy and pick up a dark chocolate note with air. Sappy black raspberry and bitter chocolate flavors are enlivened by juicy acidity, which adds bite to the back half. Closes with building, fine-grained tannins, an echo of bitter chocolate and excellent persistence.

91
POINTS

2012
DINA'S VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

Deep ruby. High-pitched dark berry and floral scents are complemented by deeper-pitched notes of licorice and black cardamom. Sweet and expansive on the palate, offering spice-accented black and blue fruit flavors and a touch of bitter chocolate. A late jolt of minerality adds energy and finishing cut, with supple tannins lending shape. (JR)

91
POINTS

2012
JOLENE'S VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

Deep ruby. Aromas of blueberry, cassis, cola and smoky minerals, with vanilla and spice nuances. Supple and expansive, offering intense, deep dark berry and floral pastille flavors that put on weight with air. A zesty mineral quality gives cut and lift to the finish, which is firmed by dusty tannins.

90
POINTS

2012
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
ZINFANDEL

Deep ruby. Smoke and spice-accented dark berries on the fragrant nose. Shows brighter red fruits on the palate, which offers juicy raspberry and cherry flavors and a hint of candied flowers. Turns more tangy with air and finishes spicy, focused and long, with dusty tannins adding grip.



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