

12. **2008 Sea Smoke**, "Ten," Sta. Rita Hills (\$80) – Medium to medium-dark ruby with purplish tinges; intense, smoky, cedary, dark cherry fruit aroma with hints of tobacco and forest floor; full body; tight, cranberry and dark cherry fruit flavors with hints of cola and dried herbs; medium-full tannin; slightly tart with a hint of bitterness on the drying finish; lingering aftertaste. Rather closed-in at present, needing some bottle aging. Highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 1,500 cases; 100% PN; released October 2010.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], twelfth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] [11, 12]

## PINOT NOIR More New Releases

1. **2008 Roar**, "Pisoni Vineyard," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$55) – Medium ruby color; attractive, deep, intense, smoky, black raspberry and black cherry fruit aroma with a hint of cocoa; medium-full to full body; forward, rich, textured, cedary, mouth-filling, currant and dark cherry fruit flavors that have good depth and concentration; well balanced and structured; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to taste now though deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 306 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released Fall 2010.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 5 of 12 first-place votes/1 second/1 third; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2008 Rochioli**, Russian River Valley (\$48) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, forward, fairly intense, smoky, spicy, raspberry and red cherry fruit aroma with notes of creamy oak; medium-full body; forward, rich, supple, spicy, cherry fruit flavors with a touch of clove and a velvety mouthfeel; well balanced and firmly structured; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Should continue to develop with several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 3,903 cases; 100% PN; released January 2010.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/3/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

3. **2008 B.R. Cohn**, Russian River Valley (\$40) – Medium ruby; attractive, cedary, spicy, cranberry, raspberry, and black cherry fruit aroma with notes of cinnamon, clove, and anise; medium-full body; initially sharp, herbal, slightly cedary, red berry fruit flavors with crisp acidity; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and developed depth and some complexity as it aired in the glass. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 1,700 cases; 100% PN; released April 2010.* (Group Score: 16.3, 3/1/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

4. **2008 Roar**, "Rosella's Vineyard," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, forward, intense, herbal, slightly stemmy, red cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of cola, sassafras, and forest floor; medium-full to full body; forward, rich, textured, bright red cherry and berry fruit flavors with a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good depth of fruit and some elegance. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 671 cases; 100% PN; released Fall 2010.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/2/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

5. **2008 Sequana**, "Dutton Ranch," Green Valley, Russian River Valley (\$40) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, earthy, spicy, Bing cherry aroma with floral notes of lavender and a hint of forest floor; medium-full body; forward, rich, earthy, cranberry and cherry fruit flavors that were slightly rough and gripping on the finish; medium-full tannin; lingering

aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 1,300 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2010.* (Group Score: 16.0, 1/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fifth place)

6. **2008 Lincourt**, Sta. Rita Hills (\$35) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, earthy, slightly dusty, red cherry aroma with hints of cola, cardamom and sandalwood; medium-full body; fleshy, cherry fruit flavors; medium tannin; slightly tart on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 3,970 cases; 100% PN; released Summer 2010.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], sixth place)

7. **2008 August West**, Santa Lucia Highlands (\$28) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, floral, herbal, slightly stemmy, raspberry and red cherry fruit aroma with a note of sweet oak; medium to medium-full body; supple, herbal, ripe cherry fruit flavors that are nicely balanced and showing some elegance; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 329 cases; 100% PN; released February 2010.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/4; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], seventh place)

8. **2008 Chasseur**, Sonoma County (\$30) – Medium ruby; attractive, herbal, raspberry and red cherry fruit aroma with floral, slightly stemmy notes and a hint of pomegranate; medium-full body; forward, rich, fleshy, raspberry and ripe cherry fruit flavors with hints of clove and sassafras, and a slightly creamy mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 531 cases; 100% PN; released January 2010.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)

9. **2008 ZD**, "Founder's Reserve," Carneros (\$65) – Medium-light to medium brickish ruby; attractive, floral, herbal, slightly candied, ripe black cherry fruit aroma with notes of clove and vanilla; medium-full body; somewhat soft, supple, herbal, raspberry and cherry fruit flavors with good depth, undertones of toasty oak, and a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 750 cases; 100% PN; released April 2010.* (Group Score: 15.7, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], ninth place)

10. **2008 Artesa**, "Block 91D," Carneros (\$80) – Medium ruby; intense, toasty, cherry fruit aroma with overtones of creamy oak; medium-full body; tight, herbal, toasty, cranberry and cherry fruit flavors that were a bit tart on the finish; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 250 cases; 100% PN; released October 2010.* (Group Score: 15.7, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], tenth place)

11. **2008 Inception**, Central Coast (\$20) – Medium-light ruby; herbal, spicy, cherry fruit aroma with notes of cinnamon and vanilla; medium to medium-full body; herbal, cherry fruit flavors with a plush, rounded mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 1,400 cases; 100% PN; released April 2010.* (Group Score: 15.6, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [87/100], eleventh place)

12. **2008 Signorello Vineyards**, "Las Amigas Vineyard," Carneros (\$50) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; tight, raspberry and black cherry fruit aroma with overtones of toasty oak and a hint of red licorice; full body; big, tight, tart, berry fruit flavors with a rough, mouth-drying finish; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. *14.7% alcohol; 140 cases; 100% PN; released October 2010.* (Group Score: 15.3, 0/0/0; My Score: 16 [84/100], twelfth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4] [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11] [12]