

2017 Pinot Noir

Here are twenty pinot noirs, from producers micro to large. They cover a range of approaches to pinot-making, but the better wines share vital features such as intensity, fragrance, varietal character, freshness and balance. The ★★★★★ wines are right up there with the best that Australia produces.



2017 Quiet Mutiny Venus Rising Tasmania Pinot Noir The nose reflects perfectly ripe fruit picked at precisely the right moment. Dark cherry aromas are enhanced by dried herb complexity. The palate is long and silky, with seductive flavour and just-right grip. Classy winemaking by Greer Carland. (\$47.00) ★★★★★

<https://quietmutiny.wine/products/venus-rising-2017-pinot-noir>



2017 Riversdale Estate Tasmania Pinot Noir The intense dark cherry fragrance has great appeal, and the palate offers impressive fruit weight backed up by fine tannins. (Not yet released. The 2016 is on sale for \$39.00) ★★★★★

<https://riversdaleestate.com.au/>

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2017 Montalto Tuerong Block Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir A complete, delicious pinot noir in which the cherry varietal character is matched with stem and oak-derived complexity. The palate delivers persistence and a delightfully silky feel. ★★★★★

Available soon – around \$70.00

<https://montalto.com.au/varieties/pinot-noir/>

2017 Home Hill Kelly's Reserve Tasmania Pinot Noir Home Hill has built an envied reputation for full-on, plush pinot noir, and this one really delivers. The summer pudding aromas grab the attention and the powerful flavour and fine tannins delight the senses. (\$79.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.homehillwines.com.au/>

2017 Devil's Corner Mount Amos Tasmania Pinot Noir A premium pinot noir from the Brown Brothers stable, this wine has much to offer. It needs time, but the structure and richness of flavour portend an illustrious future. (\$65.00) ★★★★★

<https://www.brownbrothers.com.au/product/mt-amos-pinot-noir-2017/>

2017 Santolin Gruyere Yarra Valley Pinot Noir A complex dark cherry style with substance and structure. It's easy to like the fresh, ripe flavour and velvety texture. (\$42.00) ★★★★★

2017 Oakridge Vineyard Series Willowlake Yarra Valley Pinot Noir

Strawberry, rhubarb, beetroot. Soft and very drinkable with plenty of varietal flavour and an acid twist. (\$42.00) ★★★★★

2017 Austins & Co Moorabool Valley Geelong Pinot Noir

Strawberries and raspberries with an attractive note of dried herbs. Supple and appealing. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2017 Devil's Corner Resolution Pinot Noir Here's one to enjoy now. Fresh cherry. Good fruit. Uncomplicated. Full of life and flavour. (\$34.00) ★★★★★

2017 Plantagenet Normand Pinot Noir From Mount Barker, Western Australia. Perfumed, vibrant fresh cherry/red berry. Has the flavour and fineness of tannin for early drinking. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2017 Milton Vineyard Tasmania Pinot Noir Delicate red berry. Persistent flavour. Fine and firm. (\$38.00) ★★★★★

2017 Ouse River Wines Tasmania Pinot Noir Fresh cherry and herbal-stem notes. This wine has an attractive cool climate delicacy. (\$45.00) ★★★★★

2017 Dovetail Vineyards Yarra Valley Pinot Noir (Cellarmasters) Fresh red berries with a touch of toasty oak. Satisfying and supple. (\$22.50) ★★★★★

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2017 Castle Rock Porongurup Pinot Noir Well made, floral and “pretty”, but needs more structure and weight of flavour. (\$38.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Zonte’s Footstep Dawn Patrol Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir Plenty of colour and strong dark cherry flavour. Substantial but lacks finesse. (\$23.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Anderson Hill Reserve Series Pinot Noir Perfumed strawberry. Simple. Slightly light. (\$40.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Wignalls Single Vineyard Pinot Noir Red berry/beetroot aromas and flavours.. Adequate fruit. Slightly forward. (\$31.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Sidewood Estate Adelaide Hills 777 Pinot Noir Slightly developed strawberry characteristics. Soft, supple. (\$38.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Leura Park Estate Pinot Noir Pronounced herbal notes. Lacks generosity of flavour. (\$30.00) ★★☆☆

2017 Nepenthe Altitude Pinot Noir Weak developed colour. Comparatively dilute. (\$22.00) ★★☆☆

In assessing pinot noir, A-grade tasters come to the fore. Others will declare that colour doesn’t matter. It does. Young pinot noir should be red and bright, without dullness or browning. The redness can run from light to moderately deep, but signs of premature development are unacceptable.

Likewise, over-engineered complexity, especially overt stemmy aromas and flavours are undesirable. Often, excessive stemminess is associated with poor colour.

Above all, we look for flavour, freshness and balance – just as we do in every young wine.

If you’re a pinot noir fan, and not looking closely at what’s coming out of Tasmania, you’re definitely missing something.

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