

## Championship Pinot Noir

**P**inot noir, stylistically, challenges the taster more than any other red variety. Is it all about intensity and purity of fruit? How much winemaker-induced complexity is too much? Does colour matter? Is delicacy as important as power and structure? All of that, and more, was discussed as we tasted our way through a line-up that was big on quality.

QUIET **QM** MUTINY



**Medallion Winner 2018 Quiet Mutiny Venus Rising Tasmanian Pinot Noir** The vibrant, intense dark cherry nose is strongly varietal and very attractive. This is a long, powerful, beautifully structured pinot noir that you shouldn't miss out on. (\$48.00)

★★★★☆

<https://quietmutiny.wine/>



**2018 Tamar Ridge Reserve Tasmania Pinot Noir** The subtly complex dark cherry nose is utterly captivating, as is the delightfully silky palate which offers both fruit weight and length of flavour. (\$52.00)

★★★★☆

<https://www.brownbrothers.com.au/product/tamar-ridge-reserve-pinot-noir/>

**2018 Curly Flat Macedon Ranges Pinot Noir** A beautifully fragrant pinot with a hint of spiciness and subtle oak. It's intense and structured in the manner of a Côte de Nuits. Cellar. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

**2017 Bream Creek Reserve Tasmania Pinot Noir** Rich varietal red berry/dark cherry aromas show out clearly, and are enhanced by quality oak. A powerful, finely structured pinot. (\$65.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.breamcreekvineyard.com.au/buy-wine/page/3/>

**2018 Philip Shaw No 8 Orange Pinot Noir** The fragrant summer pudding nose, with faintly brambly complexity, is very appealing. The palate is opulent, with a just-right firm, fine structure. (\$39.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.winesquare.com.au/2018-philip-shaw-no-8-pinot-noir-orange.html>

**2018 Yarra Yering Pinot Noir** The unevolved, fresh, raspberry/strawberry nose is particularly attractive, as is the intense, long palate with fine persistent tannins. Cellar 5-10 years. (\$105.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.yarrayering.com/product/2018-pinot-noir/>

**2018 Colmar Estate Block 1 Orange Pinot Noir** Fresh red fruits/cherry aromas highlight the nose. The palate is long, fine and delicious. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

**2018 Centennial Vineyards Reserve Southern Highlands Pinot Noir** A bright cherry-floral pinot noir with very fine tannins. Pretty and light on its feet. (\$39.00) ★★★★★  
<https://www.centennial.net.au/product/reservepinotnoir2018/>

**2018 Handpicked Collection Tasmania Pinot Noir** A complex style showing cherry, stems and toasty oak aromas. It's supple and juicy. A very pleasant drink. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Home Hill Estate Tasmania Pinot Noir** Strawberry/red fruits, mint and a touch of oak combine on an appealing nose. The palate delivers in terms of fruit weight, although it's fairly firm. (\$48.00) ★★★★★

**2015 Clyde Park Single Block D Pinot Noir** The fresh red fruits aromas are enhanced by input from stems and oak. Although there's attractive fruit sweetness, the tannins are on top at the moment. ★★★★★

**2018 Wicks Estate Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir** Attractive fresh cherry aromatics with a herbal note. A little firm and raw right now, but has good fruit. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Bell & Gong Tasmania Pinot Noir** Fresh and complex, showing cherry aromas with a hint of spearmint. It just needs a little more mid-palate intensity. (\$48.00) ★★★★★

**2017 Santolin Gladysdale Pinot Noir** Shows dark cherry fruit with savoury elements. The palate is quite long, with a drying finish. (\$42.00) ★★★★★

**2018 Clyde Park Single Block F18 College Pinot Noir** Slightly developed colour. Fragrant, herbal, stemmy aromas show out. This wine is a little forward and firm for its weight. ★★★☆

**2018 Hungerford Hill Revee Vineyard Tumbarumba Pinot Noir** Pale colour. Perfumed but light, with adequate fruit and structure. ★★★☆

**2017 Freycinet Tasmania Pinot Noir** The vibrant red berry nose shows a faint hint of greenness. The palate offers fine tannins and good initial fruit, but tapers off slightly. ★★★☆

**2018 Colmar Estate Reserve Orange Pinot Noir** Very pale colour. Complex but light and firm. ★★★

**2018 Santolin Gladysdale Pinot Noir** Pale developed colour. Very complex but too advanced. The fruit struggles with the drying tannins. ★★★

**2018 Hungerford Hill Tumbarumba Pinot Noir** Very fresh red berry with oak showing. Has weight but is a little plain and firm. ★★★

**2017 Crittenden Cri de Coeur Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir** Fairly developed for its age. Although there's adequate fruit, the finish is quite dry. ★★★

**2018 Yes Said the Seal Bellarine Pinot Noir** Weak colour. Red fruits with complex stemmy notes. Drying on the finish. Too complex for its own good. ★★★

**2018 Cannibal Creek Reserve Gippsland Pinot Noir** Pale colour. The nose is advanced and the palate is fairly short and dry. ★★★

**2017 Indigo Vineyard Secret Village Beechworth Pinot Noir** Light, advanced colour. Enough fruit – just. Showing signs of drying out. ★★★

We believe that colour is important in pinot noir. We're not looking for a deep shiraz-like hue, but we do expect redness and brightness. Weak, fading colours indicate fading wines. It's a big temptation for winemakers to "overwork" pinot noir i.e. introduce too much oak and elements like stems/whole bunch. If the flavour lacks intensity, the wine will quickly tire under the burden.

The eight gold medal wines combined healthy colour, freshness, intensity and complexity to great advantage.

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