



Wines Tasted on May 17, 2011

<u>Seq.</u>	<u>Vintage</u>	<u>Label/Location</u>	<u>Vintner</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Our Rating</u>	<u>Industry Ratings</u>	<u>Industry Comments</u>
A.	2009	Pinot Noir – Santa Rita Hills	Santa Barbara Winery	25	13.5 77		<p><i>Submitted by Mike Komanowski</i></p> <p>Located in Santa Barbara County's Santa Rita Hills AVA, Lafond Vineyard represents one of the most historic vineyard properties in the area. The approximately 100-acre Sta. Rita Hills estate was one of the first planted in western Santa Ynez Valley in 1972. Today, 38 acres are planted to Pinot Noir, with an additional 13 planted that we manage at Arita Hills Vineyard. Winemaker Bruce McGuire encouraged planting of the first block of Pinot Noir in 1982. 1986 marked the first vintage of Santa Barbara Winery Pinot Noir out of the Santa Rita Hills. The cool climate in this area is the result of a geographical anomaly and proximity to the cool California current that flows down the coast of northern and central California. The AVA is at the western terminus of Southern California's Transverse Ranges, the only major east-west mountain range in North America. During the growing season, hot inland temperatures draw in ocean air through the valley, creating one of the most unique climatic influences in the Pinot Noir world. A long growing season often sees bud break in the third week of February. Frost damage occurred due to late frosts in the 2007 and 2008 vintages, resulting in extremely low yields to the tune of 1.6 tons / acre in 2007 (about half of normal) and 0.7 tons / acre in 2008 (about a third of normal). Vintage 2009 is from 19 separate lots up to 27 years old and from eight different Pinot Noir clones. The wine spent nine months in an assortment of French and Hungarian oak barrels and puncheons. Great weather during harvest created an ideal temperature to pick over a four week period at Lafond and Arita Hills Vineyard.</p>



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B.	2007	Pinot Noir Willamette Valley	Walnut City Wineworks	19.00	13.1 76		<p><i>Submitted by Helmut</i></p> <p>Brilliant red color. Buttery nose with spice, earth, and cinnamon highlights. Mouth is bright red, black cherry with light raspberry, strawberry, cinnamon, and earth, with long cherry berry finish. Will continue to develop and improve for 4–7 years</p>
C.	2005	Pinot Noir Temperance Hill Vineyard Willamette Valley	Panther Creek	29.00	12.1 73		<p><i>Submitted by Lois</i></p> <p>Aromas of blue and black fruit with hints of smoke, black tea, and earth. Medium-bodied yet complex, evincing firm tannins and bright acidity that fully enhance the red cherry, pomegranate, and aniseed flavors...and to ensure for great cellaring potential.</p> <p>Pretty is the word that best describes the '05 Temperance. Bright red fruit perfume, light floral and earth aromas give way to candied cherry flavors. Add a dollop of red currant and pie spice, juicy acidity and fine tannins, and you have a great nimble Pinot noir-perfect for salmon.</p>
D.	2007	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Vignes D'alexandre	24.99	11.9 72	88	<p><i>Submitted by Marie and Joe</i></p> <p>Dark red. Nuanced nose offers red and black fruits, smoky garrigue and a hint of truffle. Sweet and chewy in texture, with good focus to the bitter cherry and blackcurrant flavors. Possesses solid stuffing and finishes with a touch of warmth. 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre, 5% Cinsault</p>



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E.	2005	Shiraz	Schild	25.00	16.0 83 Winner -tie	93	<i>Submitted by David and Janice</i> Wine Enthusiast - #16 of 100 wine of the year 2007. Smooth and round, this is impressive for its seamless balance, offering cherry and grilled pepper flavors against refined tannins. The open texture reveals sweet spices and mocha flavors as the finish lingers. Has complexity, depth and excellent detail. Best from 2008 through 2015
F.	2008	Cabernet	Napa Cellars	26.00	16.0 83 Winner -tie		<i>Submitted by Chad and Liz</i> 98% cab, 2% merlot "This Cabernet Sauvignon has a beautiful nose with layers of berries, cocoa powder, with hints of clove and spice. The tannins build a nice core structure with a round mouth feel. Dark fruit, wild berries and cocoa flavors lead to a finish with well-integrated oak."
		Riesling	Snowqualmie				<i>We tasted the following wine at the start of the evening:</i> This Riesling is crisp, refreshing, and bursting with aromas of spicy pear and dried apricots. The richly textured palate is characterized by spice and fruit as well as lingering notes of honey."



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	2005	Sauternes	Rieussec			96	<i>We tasted the following dessert wine at the end of the evening:</i> Loads of spicy honey and apple character. Full-bodied, medium-sweet, with a solid core of fruit and lots of botrytis character. Very racy. Not the 2001 but superb. Offers enticing aromas of toffee, cream, dried apricot and caramel. Full-bodied, very sweet and thick, with honey and caramel flavors. Long and rich, oozing with sweet, ripe fruit. This is like liquid candy.