

Wine Spectator

Insider Special Report: 2009 California Pinot Noir

High-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.



2009 Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

Rating: **94 points** | **\$44**

Tight, with firm flavors of sour cherry, anise, mineral, cedar, white pepper and coriander, joined by a dash of tar. This is full-bodied, complex and detailed, ending with a laser beam of flavors. Drink now through 2019. 1,680 cases made. —J.L.



2009 Pinot Noir Akiko's Cuvée Sonoma Coast

Rating: **93 points** | **\$54**

This intense Pinot displays a complex mix of mineral, anise, blood orange, sage and dried dark berry flavors. This is full-bodied, with great density and structure, maintaining its focus on a long, detailed finish. Drink now through 2019. 484 cases made. —J.L.



2009 Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley

Rating: **91 points** | **\$44**

Firm and spicy, with tight mineral, dried berry, anise and blueberry flavors delivered on a beam. Full-bodied, gaining structure on the finish. Drink now through 2019. 1,592 cases made. —J.L.