

Good Evening! - Check out our Friday night wine tasting this week Featuring Six Oregon Pinot Noirs! We have five 2008 and one (ringer) 2009. I think it will be fun to taste these wines blind, don't you?

- **Where: Santiam Wine Company**
- **When: Friday, February 18th.**
- **Time: 4-7 PM**
- **Cost: Full pour \$24**
- **1/2 pour \$14**
- **Included: Rustic French baguette from the famous Cascade Baking Company**
- **Olive Oil for dipping (taste our new Olive Oil from Portugal it is fabulous!) Cheese and Spinach Dip.**
- **Invite all your friends to join us!**

The Wines:

2008 Stoller Dundee Hills Pinot Noir \$21.50

The 2008 Pinot Noir JV Estate (JV for "junior vines", the younger vines on the estate) is medium ruby-colored with a bouquet of spicy red fruits. On the palate it is medium-bodied with layers of savory red fruit, enough ripe tannin to evolve for 2-3 years, and excellent length. Its friendly price makes it an outstanding value in Pinot Noir. 90 Points Robert Parker

2008 Soter Vineyards Pinot Noir North Valley Willamette Valley \$30.

Full red. Pungent aromas of black raspberry and cherry complicated by wilted rose, violet and black pepper. Pliant, palate-staining red and dark berry flavors are enlivened by peppery spice and mineral notes, with silky tannins adding shape. Becomes chewier with air and finishes with solid, sweet punch and very good clarity. This benefits from aeration so decant it for an hour or so if you plan on opening one soon. I had an early look at the 2008 Mineral Springs Ranch pinot and it looks very promising, with a suave blend of richness and vivacity and densely packed cherry and dark berry flavors. **91 Points Stephen Tanzer**

The ringer:

2009 Toluca Lane Estate Pinot Noir \$31.00 Just released!

"Our 2.4 acre Toluca Lane Vineyards are tightly spaced, 5.5 feet by a meter, and house 5,556 vines. We are located at an elevation of 650 feet in the Walnut Hill area of the Amity-Eola Hills AVA. Two of the predominant influences of the characteristics of the wines from this area are the shallow Nekia soils and the Van Duzer corridor. The Nekia soils primarily contain weathered volcanic basalt from ancient lava flows. These shallow, well drained soils tend to produce smaller grapes with greater concentration of flavor. The Van Duzer corridor is a break in the coastal range that allows cool ocean winds to flow into the area dropping afternoon temperatures. These afternoon and evening breezes help provide the cool nights that keep acids firm and are essential for optimal ripening." The Winery less than 200 cases produced.

2008 Andrew Rich Pinot Noir "Cuvee B" \$29.

Crisp tannins surround a supple core of sassafras-accented black cherry, plum and mineral flavors, which remain deft and agile as the finish persists impressively. Best from 2012 through 2018. 530 cases made. **90 Points Wine Spectator**

2008 Boedecker Cellars Pinot Noir "Stewart" \$29.

The 2008 Pinot Noir Stewart was made primarily from the Pommard clone sourced from the Dundee Hills. Slightly deeper in color than the Pappas cuvee, it gives up aromas of Bing cherry, floral notes, incense, and plum. With plenty of volume on the palate, ample ripe tannin, and plenty of spicy fruit, this tasty effort will benefit from another 1-2 years of cellaring and will deliver prime drinking from 2012 to 2020. **90 Points Robert Parker.** Boedecker Cellars is the winery of husband/wife team Athena Pappas and Stewart Boedecker. The wines are all produced from contracted fruit and bottled in Stelvin screw caps in their new winery in an industrial section of Portland. Many of their wines are held back for an additional year of bottle aging.

2008 Soter Pinot Noir Mineral Springs \$46.

The 2008 Pinot Mineral Springs is darker in color with a slightly reticent nose of toast, Asian spices, incense, floral notes, black cherry and black raspberry. Dense, rich, and mouth-coating, this layered, spicy effort will evolve for 2-3 years and provide a drinking window extending from 2012 to 2023. **92 Points Robert Parker**

Saturday tasting: Spanish Cava-Sparkling wine from Spain! FREE 10-6 P.M.

Thank you,

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