

"Debbie Rios" <debbie@santiamwine.com>
To: tasting santiam <tasting@santiamwine.com>
Oregon Pinot Noir Tasting

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Good Evening,

**We have been planning this tasting for weeks! Oregon Pinot has really come full cycle ...
With our neighbor's in California realizing how special our dirt is! I wish I owned some acreage in the
Willamette Valley.**

**Here is a great opportunity to taste what our climate, dirt and talented winemakers can produce.
I wish I could show them all. We have so many great wineries through-out the valley. I can only show six
at a time!**

When: Friday, August 16th

Time: 4-8

Pricing: \$23 First Five Super Pour add \$6= \$29. for 2 oz of each

Half Pour: All Six \$16.50

Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro

New on the menu: Gazpacho \$6 cup \$8 bowl add: shrimp or crab market price

Top Shelf Pinot:

2009 CAW Pinot Noir Yam-Hill District \$35

Bright ruby-red. Sexy, fruit-dominated bouquet of raspberry and blackberry preserves, potpourri and Asian spices. Sappy, vaguely jammy dark berry flavors show very good depth and a seamless texture, with a hint of smokiness on the back half. Very attractive wine with suave finishing sweetness and very good length. This is delicious right now. **90 Stephen Tanzer**

2009 Eyrie Black Cap Reserve Pinot Noir \$45

Eyrie's 2009 Pinot Noir BlackCap (whose name refers to the eponymous varieties of chickadee, morel, and raspberry) is the latest successor to a 2002 that constituted Jason Lett's first solo performance after a three year stint spent working with his father. "That turned out to be incredibly interesting," he relates, "as it was the first time I'd gotten to make the decisions about when to pick the grapes; and otherwise it's just a dishwashing job. And that's what really brought me back into winemaking (i.e. as a vocation)." Sources for Black Cap have varied across the vintages; this year's 500 cases (the largest volume thus far) for the first time represents a blend of estate fruit with fruit from the cool Cattrall Vineyard in the Eola Hills, whose proprietor Bill Cattrall helped David Lett plant Daphne vineyard back in 1979. (For more about Cattrall Vineyard, see my notes in the on-line companion to this report on the vineyard-designates from Ransom.) High-toned evocations of framboise, citrus oils, black tea, and coriander migrate from the nose to a firm, sappy, intensely bright palate. Smoke- and spice-tinged fresh berries inform an invigorating finish. This should settle-down very interestingly over the next couple of years and surely reward return visits over at least the next decade.

91 Points Robert Parker

2010 Cristom Sommer's Reserve \$41

Bright ruby red. Intense red berry and Asian spice aromas are given depth by notes of cola and mocha. Juicy and incisive on the palate, offering appealingly sweet raspberry and rose pastille flavors and a bright kick of cinnamon. Finishes on an energetic note, with excellent clarity and gentle tannic grip. The 2009 version carried 14.3% alcohol while this one checks in at 13.5%. **91 Points Stephen Tanzer**

2010 Boedecker Carlton Hills Pinot Noir \$51

Bright ruby-red. Intense, spice-accented aromas of candied red fruits, rose oil and Asian spices. Spicy and penetrating, offering gently sweet red and dark berry flavors that put on weight with air. Finishes silky and long, with lingering spiciness and soft, even tannins. **91 Points Stephen Tanzer**

2010 Soter Mineral Springs Ranch \$49

Bright ruby-red. Heady aromas of candied red fruits, incense and cola, with suave floral nuances building in the glass. Offers intense raspberry and cherry flavors and bright blood orange and spice cake qualities, along with a touch of anise. Fine-grained tannins give shape and grip to the long, nervy, focused finish. This wine should age well on its balance. **93 points Stephen Tanzer**

Same Wine:

Rose petal and geranium fascinatingly mingle with scents of cherry and almond in the nose of Soter's 2010 Pinot Noir Mineral Springs Ranch; then inform a silken-textured, infectiously-juicy palate, rich in ripe cherry and piquant nut oils yet buoyant and positively billowing in its expression of inner-mouth florality, leading to a long, mouthwateringly savory, disarmingly persistent and next sip-inducing finish in which floral and spice accents alluringly keep pace with the generous flow of fruit. Look for at least a dozen years of delight from this polished beauty, which will almost certainly gain in complex allure and fascination. **93 Points Robert Parker**

Super Pour: \$6 (Optional)

2008 Dusty Goose Pinot Noir \$62

Dusky Goose, a limited production Pinot noir, created exclusively for the Carter and Lundgren families by winemaker Lynn Penner-Ash. They are passionate about the Pinot Noir grape that helped define Oregon's Willamette Valley as one of the world's most prominent wine producing regions. This gorgeous wine is drinking stellar right now. I feel so lucky to be able to show this wine tonight. The aromas and flavors ditto. They are powerful and ripe, billowing with dark cherries, kirsch, and mocha. Follow through with lovely supple finish. Enjoy!

Cheers!

Debbie Rios
Owner
Santiam Wine Company
1555, 12th SE Suite 130
Salem, Oregon 97302
503-589-0775
www.santiamwine.com
debbie@santiamwine.com