

MAY 2018- *As a bunch, the 2015 Pinot Noirs from Dutton-Goldfield are a bit bolder and more forthrightly ripened than has been the norm, but they universally show the careful balance that has long been a winery hallmark, and we have no complaints with their slightly amplified richness.*



92 Redwood Ridge 2015 Sonoma Coast

The Redwood Ridge bottling is arguably the most demonstrative of this extra richness, and, yet while fairly lavish, full-bodied stuff, it is a wine of structured lushness and firm, fruity muscle. It is showy right now to be sure, but it has the concentration, the depth and the balance to grow for years, and we suspect it will have new and very good things to say even as it approaches its tenth birthday. This is one that we would save for the cellar.

92 Deviate Sonoma Coast 2015 Fairly full and generously fruited yet with a spot of brightness to its ongoing themes of black and red cherries, the Deviate again shows a tad more concentration than is typically the case from Dutton-Goldfield, yet it in no way errs to heaviness and displays excellent balance and very keen varietal focus throughout. It is, in short, yet another noteworthy, very well-crafted Pinot in the winery's 2015 portfolio, and, if structured to improve for a few years, it would be hard to resist if veal cutlets were on the menu tonight.

91 Devil's Gulch Vineyard 2015 Marin County. With an inviting, lightly oak-sweetened nose of juicy cherries and red berries and very deep and relatively dense flavors to match, the Devil's Gulch bottling is one of the winery's richer, more concentrated Pinots, and, as good as its fruit most definitely is, it earns equal applause for velvety varietal texture, its exemplary balance and its stunning palatal length. As is the case with most Dutton-Goldfield efforts, it succeeds by dint of purity and precision rather than unbridled potency, and, while it is so tasty now that waiting will not come easy, it is a wine that will pay big dividends with age.

90 McDougall Vineyard 2015 Fort Ross-Seaview. As fresh and fruity as it is properly ripe in scent and growing richer and more expressive with but a brief bit of airing, this energetic, medium-bodied youngster exhibits the fruity clarity and the lively balance we have come to expect from its maker, and, if never dramatic, it is as steady and well-defined as one could ask. It does takes a turn to acidity at the very last minute, and, while its youthful tanginess will appeal to many right now, it strikes us as wanting a couple more years of age before rounding into its best form.

90 Dutton Ranch 2016 Russian River Valley. Leading with plentiful, black cherry fruit in its very clean, well-stated aromas and following suit on the palate, this straightforward look at Pinot very much hews to the rich, but sleek signature style of DG. It is not quite as deep or layered as the best of its mates, but earns enthusiastic endorsement for its overall polish, its steady focus and length all the same, and while it is the one that we would choose first for drinking in the near term, it is deftly balanced with fine potential for a few years of positive growth.