

JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck Reviews August 2017

2015 Pinot Noir Block 43 – Bien Nacido Vineyard – 94 Points

One of the riper, richer wines in the lineup, the 2015 Pinot Noir Block 43 Bien Nacido offers beautiful notes of framboise, dried spices and earth, with full-bodied richness, a rounded, textured and mouth filling style and a great finish. In a vintage that yields mostly hard, austere wines, this offers fruit!

2015 Pinot Noir Block 8 - Bien Nacido Vineyard – 92 Points

A big step up over the Santa Maria Valley release, the 2015 Pinot Noir Block 8 Bien Nacido offers a terrific bouquet of black cherries, saddle leather, spice-box and dried herbs. It's fresh, nicely concentrated and textured, with good acidity, and will benefit from short term cellaring.

2015 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega Vineyard – 92 points

The 2015 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega Vineyard is reserved aromatically, yet offers solid notes of black raspberries, barnyard, spice and dusty earth. Medium-bodied, fresh and lively on the palate, with bright, yet integrated acidity. It's a beautiful wine I'd happily drink anytime over the coming 7-8 years.

2015 Pinot Noir John Sebastiano Vineyard – 90 points

Reminding me of Premier Cru from the northern part of Burgundy with its darker cherry, saddle leather, and sappy floral aromas and flavors, the 2015 Pinot Noir John Sebastiano Vineyard is medium-bodied, supple and seamless on the palate. It drops off too quickly on the finish, but it's still a beautiful wine. This site lies on the eastern edge of the Sta. Rita Hills, and the 2015 spent 17 months in 36% new French oak.

2015 Pinot Noir Julia's Vineyard – 91 Points

The 2015 Pinot Noir Julia's Vineyard is another forward, sexy, straight up charming wine. It lacks the focus and definition of some of the other cuvées, yet has loads of strawberry and raspberry fruit, medium to full-bodied richness, a mouth filling texture and a good finish. Drink it over the coming 4-6 years.

2015 Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard – 92 Points

Christmas spice, peppery mint, candied cherries and hints of strawberries all emerge from the 2015 Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard, and it's another beautiful, elegant, seamless Pinot Noir from this terrific estate. However, like too many 2015s, it drops

off on the finish, yet the tannin is beautifully managed and I suspect it will evolve gracefully.

2015 Pinot Noir Solomon Hills Vineyard – 92 Points

I also loved the 2015 Pinot Noir Solomon Hills Vineyard, and it's a broad, expansive red that shows the power and fruit-forward style of the vineyard. Kirsch, framboise, dried tea and spice aromas and flavors all emerge from this beauty, and it's already drinking nicely, yet will easily keep through 2025.

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Los Potreros- 92 points

One of my favorites in the lineup, the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Los Potreros (100% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 50% new French oak) has plenty of darker currant fruits, scorched earth and toasted spice, with subtle menthol nuances, medium to full-bodied richness, juicy acidity and a clean finish. It's a polished, balanced, impressive Cabernet from this team to drink over the coming 10-15 years.

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Mamère Vineyard- 90 points

All the Foxen Bordeaux blends are released under the Foxen 7200 label. Notes of eucalyptus, black currants, underbrush and violets all emerge from the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Mamere Vineyard, and its juicy, nicely textured and balanced on the palate, with the more charming style of the vintage front and center. With chalky minerality and fine tannin on the finish, it should evolve positively for 2-4 years and keep for a decade.

2014 Range 30 West – 91 points

From the McGinley and Vogelzang vineyards, the 2014 Range 30 West (a blend of 61% Cabernet Franc and 39% Merlot, aged 22 months in 44% new French oak) is another juicy, perfumed, elegant wine from the team at Foxen. Possessing lots of black raspberries, mint, leafy herbs and spice-box aromas and flavors, it's medium to full-bodied, has integrated, juicy acidity and sweet tannin. Drink it over the coming decade.

2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Mamère Vineyard- 90 points

Mint, eucalyptus, plum and assorted dark fruits dominate the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Mamere Vineyard, and it's a singular, unique expression of Cabernet Sauvignon. With medium to full-bodied richness, sweet tannin and good freshness, drink it anytime over the coming decade or more.