



TEN

APPELLATION STA. RITA HILLS

Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard

750ML 14.5% ALC/VOL

2014

The Tasting Panel

“Bright, silky and juicy with tangy cherry fruit; fresh, **elegant and balanced** with depth, style and finesse; **the role model for California Pinot.**” **96 Points: Classic**

-Anthony Dias Blue, June 2017

Wine Enthusiast

“This richer expression of Pinot Noir kicks off with vanilla and warm cherry sauce on the nose, along with a bit of caramel, enabling it to appeal to lovers of darker red wines. The sip delivers a great depth of berry fruit as well as **elegant** purple flowers. A chipped-slate minerality is further lifted by dried thyme and bay leaf, making for a hearty but balanced sip.” **93 Points: Excellent; highly recommended**

-Matt Kettmann, September 2017

Wine-Searcher

“10 Most Wanted Pinot Noirs”

“The only outfit with two wines in the top 10, an unsurprising reflection of the acclaim their fruit-forward wines have attracted from Pinot Noir lovers over the last decade or so. This wine is named for the ten different Pinot Noir clones found in the Estate Vineyard, and has a reputation for intensity and full body.”

-Tom Jarvis, May 2017

2013

Wine Enthusiast

“This is a top bottling from **one of the appellation’s first superstar wineries**. Aromas of baked red cherry and red plum are dusted with nutmeg, clove and a crushed-slate minerality. The palate is lively with dried fennel, white sage and an earthy mintiness, which all give spice to the underlying base of ripe raspberry fruit. It’s **extremely delicious and deeply layered.**”

95 Points: Superb; A great achievement

-Matt Kettmann, November 2016

PinotFile

“While ‘Ten’ incorporates all ten clones, it is also a barrel selection of the richest and most extracted wines of the vintage. Upon opening, oak-infused aromas and flavors combine with a fruit-charged core of dark cherry, blackberry, pomegranate and spice. Boldly styled, with **delicious fruit expression**, supportive tannins, and integrated acidity. A masculine interpretation of Pinot Noir, yet not highly muscled, offering a soft, approachable tone, and a refreshingly juicy finish.”

94 Points: Extraordinary

-Rusty Gaffney, June 2016

Decanter

“**If there was a Vosne-Romanée of California, the Sta. Rita Hills would be it.** The sheer number of gorgeously rich, texturally long wines from this small place is astounding. Sta. Rita Hills is extremely cool, perched as it is close to the coast and fully exposed to the Pacific.”

Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir

-Karen MacNeil, September 2016

2012

Wine Advocate

“**I was thrilled with these latest releases from Sea Smoke** and when the region is chasing Burgundian-like ripeness and acid profiles, they continue to show it is possible to make rich, full-bodied and concentrated Pinot Noirs from the Sta. Rita Hills that are a joy to drink.”

2012 Sea Smoke ‘Ten’ Pinot Noir

“A much bigger, richer Pinot Noir, the 2012 Pinot Noir ‘Ten’ is a cellar selection chosen with the focus on structure and richness. It has **sensational purity and depth** in its sweet black raspberry, crushed violets, spice and subtle oak aromas and flavors. These all carry over to the palate where the wine is full-bodied, concentrated and textured, with notable tannic grip. It's **another wine from this estate that delivers tons of flavor authority while never seeming heavy, cumbersome or over the top. I wish more estates would make wine in this style.**” **95 Points: An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character**

-Jeb Dunnuck, August 2015

2011

Wine Lines Online

“In the glass, it is a nearly opaque dark ruby color. Fairly closed upon opening, the initial impression is one of deep, dark, concentrated fruit cloaked in woodspice. A full 24 hours after opening, the wine was drinking nicely, still full of fleshy black fruit, yet showing a nice sense of **elegance**. At this point, the oak was fully integrated. This is a big mouthful of wine, showing firm, mature tannins.”

93 Points

-Glen Frederiksen, July 2014

2010

The SOMM Journal

“**The wines were stunningly consistent and of extraordinary quality.**”

2010 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

“Intense black cherries wrapped in vanilla. Smooth and savory, with a powerfully lush finish.”

96 Points

-Anthony Dias Blue, February/March 2017

Wine Enthusiast

“Big, deep and hard in tannins, this wine shows the estate’s power and concentration, bearing blasts of cherries, currants, persimmons and cola. The flavors are pinpointed with laserlike focus, with hints of cocoa powder and tamari.” **Cellar Selection, 92 Points: Excellent; highly recommended**
-Steve Heimoff, March 2013

PinotFile

“Stars Aligned for Sea Smoke in 2010”

“**Very polished** with well-managed ripe tannins and bright acidity. **Spectacular** the following day from a previously opened and recorked bottle, displaying flamboyant aromas of spicy berries, a creamy texture and a long, powerful finish.”

-Rusty Gaffney, December 2012

2009

JamesSuckling.com

“This is really beautiful and **reminds me of a beautiful Volnay** with ripe strawberry and mineral character. Full body. But refined and silky with bright fruit. All there. **Very fine indeed**. So good now but better in two or three years.” **94 Points: Outstanding**

-James Suckling, December 2011

The SOMM Journal

“Full and lush with round, dark fruit. Tannins are mature, with a fleshy and structured finish.”

94 Points

-Anthony Dias Blue, February/March 2017

2008

Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar

“Saturated ruby. Deep, pungent aromas of black raspberry, cherry pie, vanillin oak and smoky Indian spices. Sappy, palate-coating cherry and dark berry compote flavors show an exotic floral pastille quality and hints of clove and mocha. A distinctly rich, fleshy pinot.” **91 Points: Outstanding**

-Josh Reynolds, November/December 2010

2007

Wine Enthusiast

“This very dense, tannic Pinot Noir represents **a triumph for both the winery, the vintage and the region it represents**. The astringency throws a cloak over the raspberries, cherries, rosehip tea and Indian spice flavors, which reveal themselves only reluctantly. But they’re there, in an imposing texture of velvet and silk. This enormous wine demands time. The window seems to be 2012–2015.”

Cellar Selection, 97 Points: Superb; a great achievement

-Steve Heimoff, March 2010

Newsday

“Concentrated, rich pinot; vibrant with cherry and plum, flowers and spice. Long finish, long life.”

-Peter Gianotti, December 2009

2006

Wine Enthusiast

“Only a Burgundian ideologue would find anything not to like about this mouth-filling Pinot that **captures the essence of Sta. Rita Hills**. It's as voluptuous as any Pinot in California. Offering waves of ripe, fleshy cherries, red currants, licorice and smoky vanilla that just don't stop in palate appeal. For all that, the wine is elegant, silky and refined.” **96 Points: Superb; a great achievement**
-Steve Heimoff, December 2008

Wine News

“Top Ten Pinot Noirs of the Year”

“Pale garnet hue. Heady menthol aromas mingle with cherry fruit and delicate rose petal scents. Toothsome flavors of red licorice and Bing cherry with youthful wood tannins and an acidic, orange zest-like nuance. Intense finish showcases a seemingly endless exchange of toasted oak, minerals and red fruit.” **95 Points**
-December 2008/January 2009

Robb Report

“100 Perfect Pours”

“The Pinot Noir from the Sta. Rita Hills region just outside of Lompoc, California, continues to yield wines of unusual character and structure, thanks to a unique combination of marine influences and diatomaceous soils that were once an ancient seabed. This balanced, silky vintage from Sea Smoke shows black-raspberry fruit, sage, and nutmeg.”
-Brett Anderson, October 2009

PinotReport

“Medium ruby color; bit tight and closed, some cherry and spice aromas; deep, rich, ripe stewed cherry and plum flavors; rich, silky texture, lots of spice notes; good structure and balance; long finish. **Great depth and balance mark this terrific Pinot; it's delicious** to drink now but will definitely reward some time in the cellar.” **94 Points: Outstanding; approaching the best**
-Gregory S. Walter, January 2009

Robb Report

“101 Fabulous Fermentations”

“In 1999, owner Bob Davids acquired the parcel of land that has become Sea Smoke Vineyard. Since then, he has concentrated his efforts on crafting **Pinot Noirs that express the personality of the Sta. Rita Hills region**, which is situated on the western edge of California's Santa Ynez Valley, not far from the Pacific Ocean. Dark in color and dense in body, this **exceptional** Pinot Noir opens with aromas of plum and black cherry that combine on the palate with **delicious** flavors of toffee, sweet tobacco, and mushroom.”
-Brett Anderson, November 2008

2005

Wine Enthusiast

2005 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir - 94 Points: Superb; a great achievement
-Steve Heimoff, December 2007

Wine & Spirits Magazine

“Year’s Best Pinot Noirs”

“Ten takes its name from the number of pinot noir clones planted at Sea Smoke's estate vineyard at the west end of the Sta. Rita Hills. The wine feels buff in its youth, sitting firmly in its oak for now. But after a day of air that youthful vigor begins to shine, revealing flavors of persimmon and exotic spice, as well as aromas that recall the coastal chaparral of Santa Barbara County. It's a big wine, with an intriguing blend of cool and warm, much like California's south coast. Built and balanced for several years in the cellar.” **93 Points: Exciting, distinctive**

-Joshua Greene, April 2008

San Francisco Chronicle

“Top 100 Wines”

“There's lots of dry oak on the nose, along with lavish cocoa, cola and beef jerky. It's matched by floral raspberry and lemon zest, with an underpinning of minerality. **An amazingly eloquent wine,** given its size and overt power.”

-Jon Bonné, December 2007

Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar

“Exotically perfumed nose offers a wild array of dark berry, cherry, incense and floral scents. Spicy red and dark berry flavors are refreshingly bitter but became sweeter with air, gaining a white pepper and baking spice character. Really stains the palate, finishing with outstanding cling and length. I was looking for oakiness but didn't find it. Curran noted that she's as meticulous as possible with her winemaking, leaving as little as possible to chance.” **93 Points: Outstanding**

-Josh Reynolds, November/December 2007

PinotReport

“Deep ruby color; deep, spicy black cherry and plum aromas; ripe, deep, complex, black cherry and plum flavors with smoky oak and moderate tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and rich, this is a Pinot for those who like a big style. Don’t get me wrong, this wine is well balanced and **delicious.**” **93 Points: Outstanding; approaching the best**

-Gregory S. Walter, May 2008

San Francisco Chronicle

“The Chronicle Wine Selections”

“This is the winery’s flagship offering, which has lavish cocoa, mocha ice cream, cola and allspice with a touch of meaty earthiness. Ripe, rich dark fruit aromas and flavors have a mineral underpinning that adds interest. Alcohol is here but never so much to be overbearing, mostly because of the wine’s **great balance** and firm but fine-grained finish.” **3 out of 4 stars: Excellent!**

-Lynne Char Bennett, October 2007

2004

Wine Advocate

“The 2004 Pinot Noir Ten possesses a deep ruby/purple-tinged color, sweet cranberry, raspberry, and cherry fruit, and a hint of toasty oak in the background. The most closed as well as the biggest and richest of this trio, it will benefit from another 12 months of cellaring, and should drink well for a decade or more. **An impressive example of Pinot Noir, it offers further evidence of the Sta. Rita Hills’ potential.**” **94+ Points: An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character**

-Robert Parker, August 2006

Wine Spectator

“Of the next wine, the Sea Smoke Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Ten 2004, Laube said, “The Sta. Rita Hills is to my mind the most exciting new Pinot Noir region in California.’ The Sea Smoke, with its balance and tiers of ripe fruit concentration, validated that assessment.” **93 Points: Outstanding; a wine of superior character and style**

-Daniel Sogg, January 2007

San Francisco Chronicle

“Made from 10 Pinot Noir clones, it’s deep and satisfying, with rich black cherry, plum and blackberry fruit, a touch of toasty oak, velvety tannins and tangy acidity. Full-bodied, with a **finish that doesn’t stop.**”

-Linda Murphy, December 2006

Wine Spectator

“Riveting aromas, intense, vivid yet **elegant** and supple, with rich blueberry, huckleberry and wild berry flavors that unfold gracefully, gaining **complexity, depth and nuance.** The flavors reveal a wonderful fresh earth and mineral edge on the finish.” **93 Points**

-James Laube, August 2006

2003

Wine Advocate

“The deep ruby/purple-tinged 2003 Pinot Noir Ten offers up **stunning** aromas of violets, creme de cassis, cherries, and flowers. It is an **extraordinary** wine that coats the palate with great viscosity, richness, and layers of flavor. There is a **seamless** integration of wood, acidity, tannin, and alcohol. A tour de force, this exquisite example of Pinot Noir from the Sta. Rita Hills should drink well for a decade. This wine was bottled about six weeks before I tasted it, which is usually a difficult period for many wines, even those bottled naturally. In any event, this up-and-coming Santa Barbara County producer demonstrates considerable potential.” **96 Points: An extraordinary wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety**

-Robert Parker, August 2005

2002

Wine Advocate

“The broad, rich, deep ruby/purple-tinged 2002 Pinot Noir Ten offers up sweet black fruit, cola, and allspice aromas intermixed with discreet notes of wood and loamy soil. Full-bodied, pure, and impressively rich, with enough acidity and tannin to provided delineation.” **93 Points: An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character**

-Robert Parker, August 2004

2001

Robb Report

“Get on the list now for this mid-2004 release from **one of California’s most promising new producers**; the barrel sample was **elegant** and chock full of black cherry fruit.”

-Anthony Dias Blue, November 2003