



## 2019 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir

### *Forbes website*

#### **“Ten Perfect Pinot Noirs To Try Now”**

“Pinot Noir is a wine varietal that plays well with others, whether its paired with food or enjoyed on its own. The silky-soft tannins and high-toned fruit profile of pinot are appealing to most wine drinkers. It is one of the world’s oldest grape varieties (besting Cabernet Sauvignon by almost 1,000 years) and it’s a legendary diva in the vineyard. Growing pinot noir has been known to bring some winemaking professionals to tears. Yet, the bright elegance and delicate power of these wines is worth the effort to cultivate and the cost to buy. Round up some friends, grill some salmon, and open one of these bottles tonight.”

#### **2019 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**

“The pinot used to make these delicate but decadent wine is grown on a southward facing bluff in the Santa Rita Hills AVA. This expression shows sour cherry, strawberry and violet notes with a savory backbone and sweet top notes.”

*-Katie Kelly Bell, August 2021*

## 2018 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir

### *The Tasting Panel*

#### **“Publisher’s Picks”**

“Working with ten clones of Pinot Noir on 135 acres that boast a variety of elevations and soil types, winemaker Don Schroeder has room to create a wine from the most complex lots of each vintage. Aging 16 months in 28% new French oak results in a lush experience that’s not about delicacy but rather energy and stamina. Scents of jasmine and vanilla linger as broad strokes of pomegranate, rhubarb, plum, and cinnamon integrate with a fine thread of minerality.” **96 Points:**

#### **Classic**

*-Meridith May, March 2021*

### *Wine Enthusiast*

“Extremely suave aromas of rich black cherry, caramel cream and spearmint make for a wondrous, elegant and silky nose on this monopole bottling. Chiseled, expertly polished tannins frame the more delicate sip, where the black-cherry-cream flavors are enhanced by star anise and nutmeg accents.”

#### **95 Points: Superb; a great achievement**

*-Matt Kettmann, May 2021*

***Wine Review Online***

“**This is always a top-flight offering**, and as I look back at my reviews going back to the 2012 vintage, I see a very consistent wine with a range of red fruit aromatics and flavors, with signature terroir notes of damp earth minerality. That particular earth note is in the background this vintage, where it offsets the strawberry and cherry fruit beautifully. Easy oak spice rounds things out, and the tension between the silky texture and the lively acidity keeps pushing flavor through a long, seductive finish. **It’s another standout that’s delicious now and will age gracefully** for the next ten years.” **95 Points**

-*Rich Cook, May 2021*

***The Prince of Pinot***

“Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. Very complex nose displaying aromas of earthy flora, black cherry, white pepper, tarragon, and seasoned oak. **A delightful wine** with a discrete concentration of black cherry and black raspberry fruit flavors with a valued touch of spice. A little more elegant than the 2017 Southing but offering a very long finish like that wine. Excellent rapport between the fruit, tannins and acidity.” **94 Points**

-*Rusty Gaffney, September 2021*

## 2017 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir

***Wine Enthusiast***

“This monopole bottling from the coveted biodynamic vineyard begins with lush, intense and inviting aromas of dark boysenberry paste, wild mint, star anise and shaved nutmeg. The palate is bright with acidity yet redolent with dark-berry and black-currant flavors that give way to cola, mace and more exotic spices toward the finish.” **96 Points: Superb; a great achievement**

-*Matt Kettmann, May 2020*

***Robb Report***

“**20 Stellar Wines Under \$100—and 5 Secrets for How to Find Them**”

“This would also seem like a good time to take another look at tactics for finding **great West Coast bottles** to fill in for those until-now, reasonably priced wines from Old World regions that might be getting a lot more expensive soon. We’re not talking about the equivalent of top Bordeaux, Burgundies or Barolos, but wines that drink like they’re over that \$100 mark but in fact are under and that don’t necessarily warrant years in your cellar. These bottles beg to be popped open any night of the week.

**2017 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

From Sea Smoke’s biodynamic vineyard comes an **elegant**, cool-climate Pinot. Pretty floral aromas mix with hints of loam and spice, followed by lovely red berry and cherry flavors underlined by minerality on a fresh, vibrant palate.”

-*Sara Schneider, January 2020*

***Wine Review Online***

“This wine is a bit of a chameleon on the nose and in the mouth, one that takes you on a journey through ripe strawberry, raspberry, flowers, damp earth and brown spice in layered fashion, alternately vying for the solo spot and stepping back. There’s a great push in the finish thanks to vibrant acidity, and some grip carries the flavors into the distance. **My favorite edition of this Southing bottling to date.**” **96 Points**

-*Rich Cook, April 2020*

### ***The Tasting Panel***

“This vintage marks the 20th anniversary of the Biodynamic Sea Smoke estate vineyard, which boasts ten Pinot Noir clones grown on three soil types at a range of elevations. Barrel-aged for 16 months in French oak (28% new), it expresses a deep, dark perfume of cardamom and tilled soil elevated by rose petals. Black raspberry, graphite, anise, and espresso bean shade in the big-boned structure as a finish of Chinese five spice seasons the fine tannins.” **95 Points: Classic**

*-Meridith May, March 2020*

### ***The Prince of Pinot***

“Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. Really nice aromas of black raspberry, black cherry, rose petal, and damp soil. The flavors echo the aromas with a slight echo of oak. Good harmony with quenching acidity and suave tannins. The finish is amazingly long. **This wine is now ready to be the centerpiece of your next special dinner.**” **95 Points**

*-Rusty Gaffney, September 2021*

### ***The Press Democrat***

**“This week’s blind tasting: Tasty alternatives”**

**2017 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

**“This pinot wins you over with its depth and balance.** Its generous fruit is kept in check with its crisp acid. Notes of Bing cherry, a hint of pomegranate, herbs and mineral. **Top rate.**” **★★★★½**

*-Peg Melnik, February 2020*

### ***Wine Review Online***

“Rich, ripe and graceful, with melt-in-your-mouth blackberry and strawberry flavors, this is a **terrifically well-balanced Pinot Noir.** Its perfumey floral notes, subtle acidity and touch of spice will all pull you in right away, and the wine’s overall lovely texture will keep you coming back for more.” **93 points**

*-Marguerite Thomas, April 2020*

### ***South Florida Reporter***

**“One of our perennial favorites, Sea Smoke pinot noir has a lot of elegance.** From Santa Rita Hills, the Southing unveils a cloak of strawberry notes with violet aromas and a dash of clove.”

*-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, January 2020*

### ***Colorado Springs Gazette***

**“Fine pinot noir from California”**

“It wasn’t always this way, but today there are numerous regions along a 500-mile stretch from Mendocino to Santa Barbara sourcing fine pinot noir. According to Nielson (2019), pinot noir is the fifth most California popular wine. The best reveal pure red (mostly cherry) fruit, a fresh but sleek texture and appealing earthy and brown spice notes. This column is the first of two on the subject.

The Santa Rita Hills of Santa Barbara County, with its rare east-west orientation, has become a magnet for top pinot producers. The biodynamically farmed **Sea Smoke** is one; its **2017 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**, meant to reflect the variety and complexity of the estate vineyard, is rich, full and persistent.”

*-Rich Mauro, June 2020*

## 2016 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir

### *Forbes*

“Producers in California are as passionate about making the perfect Pinot Noir – or at least one as good as possible – and it’s a mission that has been going on for over 50 years. Today, there are wineries in many parts of the state that have taken Pinot Noir by the horns, so to speak, and have come up with some very impressive results.

### **Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County**

This growing district has become **arguably the finest for Pinot Noir in the state**; I have come to this opinion based on comparative tastings over the past few years. This is a small zone, with most vineyards situated only 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean.

Victor Gallegos, General Manager and Director of Winemaking for **Sea Smoke, a celebrated area producer**, comments on this territory. ‘Sta. Rita Hills is the southernmost Region 1 microclimate (Region 1 equates to the coolest temperatures for a wine region) to be found in the Northern Hemisphere. The solar intensity found at our southern latitude and the daily fog (**Sea Smoke**) influence here create wines that are lush, but with great freshness and acidity.’

I love the varietal purity as well as the complexity and structure of the Pinot Noirs from the Sta. Rita Hills; the finest examples offer appealing drinkability upon release, yet display great complexity after several years in the bottle.

### **Recommended current releases of California Pinot Noir**

#### **2016 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

Aromas of maraschino cherry; wood notes and coriander. Full-bodied with deeply extracted fruit, a rich mid-palate, rich tannins, very good acidity and excellent persistence. This is a powerful Pinot Noir that has some meaty characteristics in the finish, along with ample wood notes. Just a baby-best in 7-10 years, could hold longer.” **Outstanding**

*-Tom Hyland, December 2018*

### **Wine Review Online**

“Sea Smoke's Southing is always a solid expression of Santa Rita Hills, delivering rich dark fruit, warm oak spice and a weighty palate that’s long on the local earthy profile without covering the fruit character. A serious Pinot Noir with pedigree, and 2016 keeps the line rolling.” **94 Points**

*-Rich Cook, May 2019*

### **Vinous**

“The 2016 Pinot Noir Southing is terrific. Finely cut and bright, with soaring floral and citrus overtones, the Southing offers a beguiling mix of deep fruit and aromatic intensity. Sweet red cherry, blood orange, mint and rose petal are all finely cut in a precise, mid-weight Pinot of real distinction. This is such a pretty wine.” **94 Points: Outstanding. A wine of remarkable personality and breed that is well worth seeking out**

*-Antonio Galloni, September 2019*

### **PinotFile**

“Dark garnet color in the glass. Patience is required to fully appreciate this wine. The ripe black fruit aromas are muted initially and only come to life over time. Stacked and packed with luscious blackberry, boysenberry and cassis fruit flavors framed by bold, yet well-mannered tannins. Mouth filling, yet elevated by bright acidity, finishing long with copious fruit persistence. This wine was

considerably more suave and charming when re-tasted from a previously opened and re-corked bottle one and two days after opening. Decanting or further cellaring is advised.” **93 Points: Outstanding**

*-Rusty Gaffney, January 2019*

### ***Wine Spectator***

“Fruity and rich, with notes of chocolate nibs to the elegant dark fruit and spice flavors. Toasty details linger on the long finish, which features sandalwood accents. Drink now through 2023.”

**92 Points: Outstanding; a wine of superior character and style**

*-Kim Marcus, April 2019*

### ***Wine Review Online***

#### **“Big Can Be Beautiful”**

“I have written before about Sea Smoke, a biodynamic wine estate situated in the small Sta. Rita Hills AVA, in Santa Barbara County. Founded in 1999, the property specializes in Pinot Noir and also grows Chardonnay. The high vineyards face south along the Santa Ynez River gorge, which funnels cool air and fog from the ocean to the west. Marine breezes and fog create a cool climate and a long growing season, leading to wines that are high in acidity but fully ripe, with pronounced flavor.

The companion release to this Chardonnay is the **2016 Southing Pinot Noir**. This might be **my favorite vintage of this wine among those I have tasted to date**. It is not at all a juicy Pinot Noir but one in an earthy, savory style, with firm tannin and a saline minerality. Aromas and flavors to me suggest mainly dark fruit, especially plum, but red fruit nuances also emerge. It is a Pinot Noir of unusual extract that should evolve beautifully over the next several years. Like the 2012, which I tasted with a year of bottle age, I score the 2016 at 92 points – even without the advantage of a year of bottle age.” **92 Points**

*-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, February 2019*

### ***Check, Please! Bay Area KQED***

“Pinot Noir inspires people because it’s such a difficult grape to make into great wine. When its planted in the right place and made with care and commitment, though, the resulting wine shines like no other. Such is the case with Sea Smoke. **It’s a magical slice of vinous heaven** perched on in the mist-laden coastal Santa Rita Hills.

Their bottling dubbed ‘Ten’ is arguably their most coveted Pinot, but I have long been a fan of the ‘Southing.’ It’s a Pinot that elicits emotion with red-berry finesse and savory undertones. I feel like I’m draped in silk just sipping it.”

*-Leslie Sbrocco, September 2019*

### ***D Magazine***

#### **“Sip these varieties from The Golden State.”**

“California offers many incredible wine regions specializing in everything from Bordeaux and Burgundian varieties to great Zinfandel, Petit Sirah, and Rhone-styles. Here are some favorite premium wines found throughout the state.

Celebrating the terroir of their Santa Rita Hills AVA estate has long been the focus for **Sea Smoke**, moving to become completely organic and biodynamic in recent years. Textured, highly structured **2016 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir** melds wild rose, boysenberry, and plum with a gorgeous palate that lingers long after the glass is finished.”

*-Hayley Hamilton Cogill, January 2019*

## 2015 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir

### *The Tasting Panel*

“Delivering wines from its organic- and Biodynamic-certified estate in the Sta. Rita Hills, **Sea Smoke has earned its reputation for outstanding quality.** Low yields from the 2015 vintage, which winemaker Don Schroeder (who has presided over the wines since 2003) deems phenomenal, makes this red ‘exceptionally concentrated.’ The wine offers up scents of chocolate earthiness, and on the palate, roses bloom alongside structure that goes on for miles. The cherry is oak-influenced, but only a subtle hint. This wine melts in the mouth with a luscious whoosh.” **96 Points: Classic**

*-Meridith May, April 2018*

### *Wine Review Online*

#### **“Today’s Featured Wine”**

“Oodles of aromatic complexity here, so take some time to enjoy the nose prior to proceeding. It’s primarily floral, fruited, and fennel, with high toned spice and just the right touch of Santa Rita Hills funk all weaving in and out as you slowly draw it in. Racy acidity drives the palate and pushes spice forward in the finish, which lingers pleasantly. It’s already quite **elegant**, and it will silken up with up further bottle aging. I usually recommend a long decant on a wine like this, but this time try a pop and pour in large bowl glasses and savor the aeration process. **Bravo!**” **95 Points**

*-Rich Cook, May 2018*

### *PinotFile*

#### **“California Pinot Noir Worth Toasting: Sea Smoke Estate”**

“Sea Smoke wines are produced from the winery’s organic and biodynamic certified Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard that contains ten clones of Pinot Noir. Winemaker Don Schroeder has been at Sea Smoke since 2003. In 2015, yields were very low (about 1.5 tons-per-acre), but the small size of the clusters and grapes led to exceptional concentration. The winemaking goal with the Southing bottling is to create **a marriage of complexity and elegance.**

#### **2015 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

Southing refers to the south-facing hillside bluffs on the estate vineyard. Moderately light garnet color in the glass. Aromas of black cherry, purple berry, underbrush and tar engage the nose. Comforting and satiny in the mouth, in an elegant but flavorful, even powerful, mid weight style, offering flavors of black cherry and boysenberry accompanied by earthbound notes. The tannins are well-behaved making for easy drinking now.” **95 Points**

*-Rusty Gaffney, March 2018*

### *Washington Wine Blog*

“The ‘Southing’ by Sea Smoke is an outstanding new effort sourced from their south facing estate vineyard. Once opened, this beautiful Pinot Noir needs more than an hour decant to fully develop.

Once aroused the nose evokes really range from blood orange to smoky tones to red cherry preserves. The palate reveals a velvety texture and a soft mouthfeel. Gobs of mouth-watering acidity great you and connect with a strong salinity as the salty terroir here is brilliant. Black cherry cola, mulberry, black tea and Asian spice flavors all parade together in the mouth. This is seriously delicious right now but the Pinot Noir will age gracefully for at least another decade.” **93 Points**  
*-Owen Bargreen, November 2018*

***WineSearcher.com***

**“The World's Most Wanted Pinot Noirs”**

**Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

“The caveats outlined above should not detract from this certified biodynamic estate's number one ranking, and once again it is the only producer with two wines in this list. The estate was founded in 1999 on farmland

overlooking the Santa Ynez river, and is named after the fogs which roll in from the Pacific Ocean. Grapes for this wine are grown on south-facing slopes, hence the name. Being a sought-after wine, all bottles since the 2012 vintage have a special number-coded security seal, which prevents tampering and allows the user to check whether the wine is genuine. Obviously the company feels that counterfeiting Pinot Noir is not confined to Burgundy.”

*-Tom Jarvis, June 2018*

***Wine Enthusiast***

“Soft aromas of strawberry and grenadine meet with a subtle wild mint on the nose of this bottling. The polished palate shows similar touches, with a strawberry-mint sorbet flavor as well as tangy cranberry skins.” **92 Points: Excellent; highly recommended**

*-Matt Kettmann, October 2018*

***Wine Spectator***

“Delicate yet powerfully built, with concentrated spiced cherry and rhubarb flavors. Cardamom and smoky accents show on the finish. Needs some time to flesh out. Best from 2019 through 2023.” **90**

**Points: Excellent; highly recommended**

*-Kim Marcus, August 2018*

***The Press Democrat***

**“Savory Pinot Noirs: Tasty Alternatives”**

“The Sea Smoke has explosive fruit and savory notes of cedar and herbs in the mix. The fruit is concentrated and generous — strawberry and raspberry — with a hint of cherry. Crisp balance. Nice length. It’s pricey but if you have the disposable income, it’s well worth the splurge.” **★★★★1/2**

*-Peg Melnik, April 2018*

***Houston Lifestyles & Homes***

**“Seeing Red – Wines to snatch up for fall and winter tasting”**

“Of the 200 or so red wines I have consumed over the last three months, here we have the cream of the crop!”

**2015 Sea Smoke ‘Ten’ Pinot Noir**

“A Burgundy Grand Cru look-alike!”

*-Denman Moody, August 2018*

### *D Magazine*

#### **2015 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**

“Near Santa Barbara, Santa Rita Hills provides the ideal cool-climate backdrop for growing well structured, **highly enjoyable** Pinot Noir. Dreamy **Sea Smoke Southing** (\$64) from their St. Rita Hills estate layers boysenberry, dried cherry, balsamic, and plum with complexity, and cool-climate acidity.”

*-Hayler Hamilton Cogill, August 2018*

### *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

#### **“10 wines worth sharing for Thanksgiving”**

“This winery’s organic and biodynamic estate vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills are known for complex, full-bodied yet elegant wines: **2015 Southing Pinot Noir**, 2015 Ten Pinot Noir and 2015 Chardonnay.”

*-Rich Mauro, November 2018*

## **2014 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

### *The Tasting Panel*

“Bright black-cherry nose; silky and ripe with juicy cherry fruit and toasty oak; great depth, elegance and finesse; **another exceptional wine from this great vineyard.**” **95 Points: Classic**

*-Anthony Dias Blue, February 2017*

### *Wine Review Online*

“**Another gorgeous bottling from Sea Smoke.** This vintage of ‘Southing’ shows bright dark cherry fruit with layered pie spices, signature damp earth minerality and moderate oak toast aromas and flavors, with bold acidic structure and lively texture asking for some further bottle aging. The finish blossoms, intensifying after the liquid is gone. 3 to 5 years in the bottle should show full potential. Very well made.” **95 Points**

*-Rich Cook, December 2016*

### *International Wine Report*

“The 2014 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir is a seductive wine, which come exclusively from the estate vineyard. As this slowly begins to open it releases a gorgeous bouquet of strawberries, blueberries, cherries and a touch of cranberry woven together with baking spices, orange peel and pretty violets all taking shape. On the palate this possesses beautiful round, polished tannins and a lovely soft texture leading up to the complex finish, which leaves behind a mouth full of juicy red fruits and exotic spices. Overall, **this is a delicious, utterly pleasing Pinot Noir**, which is already showing extremely well and should also evolve gracefully over the course of the next decade. Best 2018-2029.” **93 Points**

*-Joe D’Angelo, April 2017*

### *Houston Chronicle*

“Fruity and slightly acidic. Clean. The wine, **a California Central Coast ‘cult’ favorite**, spent 16 months in French oak, 55 percent new.”

*-Dale Robertson, February 2017*



### ***Wine Enthusiast***

“Crisp boysenberry and black raspberry aromas meet with thyme, oregano and a touch of caramelization on the nose of this Sea Smoke bottling. Dark cranberry fruit shows on the palate, lifted by anise, pepper and an array of herbs, all framed by a leathery texture. Drink now until 2028.”

***Cellar Selection, 92 Points: Excellent; Highly recommended***

*-Matt Kettmann, April 2017*

### ***Wine-Searcher***

**“10 Most Wanted Pinot Noirs”**

**Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

“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...Southing refers to the south-facing hillside bluffs upon which their 42-ha (105-acre) Estate Vineyard (certified biodynamic since 2013) is planted. The wine spends around 16 months in French oak barrels, just over half of which are new.”

*-Tom Jarvis, May 2017*

### ***Wine Review Online***

“‘Southing’ is a serious Pinot Noir made by folks who take their winemaking seriously. The grapes are grown on south-facing bluffs less than 8 miles from the Pacific Ocean, and the estate’s name, ‘Sea Smoke,’ refers to the layer of ocean fog that helps keep temperatures moderate. The vineyards are certified both Biodynamic (Demeter) and Organic (Stellar). The wine shows bold cherry flavors along with red and black berries, plus light oak spicing and firm tannins. It is quite youthful and exuberant now, but decanting should rein in that adolescent exuberance somewhat.” **92 Points**

*-Marguerite Thomas, February 2018*

### ***PinotFile***

“Cool microclimate, southern exposure, clay soils and low yields. Vineyard has been farmed organically and biodynamically since 2013. Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. Dark berries and stone fruits with a hint of spice are featured on this very pleasant nose. A luscious, but not overbearing array of dark fruits have an earthy bent and are well supported by vital tannins. Soothing in the mouth, with a deft touch of oak seasoning, integrated acidity, and a lengthy, blackberry-driven finish. Still very young, and will benefit from more time in the cellar.” **92 Points: Outstanding**

*-Rusty Gaffney, November 2016*

### ***City & Shore***

“...You also owe it to yourself to sample some amazing pinot noirs from California. Favorites include **Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir** from the Santa Rita Hills.”

*-Bob Hosmon and Mark Gauert, December 2016*

### ***Santa Barbara News-Press***

**“Still (Sea) Smoking after all these years”**

“It seems like only yesterday that Sea Smoke burst on the scene as one of the most exciting pinot noir producers in all of California...While they're not the new kids on the block anymore, their wines are still very much in demand, if not more so than they were at the outset. **Sea Smoke has established a credible seniority as a legacy producer.** Given its current releases (below), I can't wait to see what the future holds.”

### **2014 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

“Dark cherry and a panoply of ground brown baking spices are evident along with the brightening effect of white florals, though the pull of the dark fruit is quite intriguing. From the first sniff, there's no question that this is cool-climate pinot. The flavors are precise, focused on its very pinot-ness, exclusive of anything extraneous that could get in the way. Dark fruit again on the palate with dark cherry leading the way and soothing spicy undertones in a supporting role. A surprising element of smooth-talking blackberry comes through on the finish. Sixty-dollar pinots can be a questionable value, but this one is worth every penny.”

*-Dennis Schaefer, February 2017*

### ***Vail Daily***

“**Sea Smoke has been a sensation** since it premiered earlier this century. Three-quarters of its production is spoken for by members of its wine club, leaving just a tiny amount for the rest of the world. **Sea Smoke makes highly collectible wines from its estate vineyard**, including the Southing and Ten.”

### **2014 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

“This is a tough find but one to try if you can get it. ‘This is the favorite of our winemaking team,’ said Victor Gallegos about this elegantly balanced pinot noir that is grown on the Sea Smoke estate vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills. ‘It is probably the most unlikely place on the planet to grow great pinot,’ he said, laughing. ‘If everything were not exactly right, the geography (the valley runs east-west), the mesoclimate and the microclimates, we wouldn’t be talking about this wine now.’ Of course everything is right. Perfectly so.”

*-Kelly Hayes, January 2017*

### ***D Magazine***

“Santa Barbara’s Sta. Rita Hills is home to exceptional **Sea Smoke**, producing premium Pinot Noir wines like their ‘Southing,’ layering pomegranate and cranberry with rugged earthy notes.”

*-Hayley Hamilton Cogill, October 2017*

### ***Capital Gazette***

“Below we have listed some great wines that are guaranteed to be consumed with great pleasure.”

### **2014 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**

“**Sea Smoke is a legendary producer** in California's Santa Rita Hills appellation. Talk about an iron fist in a velvet glove – this giant manages to show both finesse and power. Lush red cherry flavors with a dusting of nutmeg, cloves and vanillin oak.”

*-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, December 2016*

### ***D Magazine***

#### **“What to Drink Now: California Pinot Noir”**

“California’s Central Coast, where light breezes from the Pacific meld with cool morning fog, is home to some of the most exciting Pinot Noir wines in the state. **The wines of Sea Smoke offer texture, complexity, and a delicate touch.** Their current **2014 ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir** from Santa Rita Hills in Santa Barbara County reveals cherry, dried fig, lilac, and violet notes.”

*-Hayley Hamilton Cogill, November 2016*

### ***Boat International***

“In the summer of 2002, I received an invitation to lunch from Victor Gallegos, general manager at a new vineyard called Sea Smoke, located in Santa Barbara’s Sta. Rita Hills, nine miles from the

Pacific. There, fog blankets the vineyards every evening, cooling down the grapes allowing for long maturation. The wine he poured for lunch had all the hallmarks that I look for in Pinot Noir: it was fragrant with raspberry, cherry and a hint of strawberry, with light fruit to balance the acidity and the taste of red fruits. I was impressed. Since then, Sea Smoke has evolved into one of the most sought after Californian wines. In addition to my continuing admiration for this prince of Pinot Noirs, I also love the label, with its curls and undulations, which to me are suggestive of the nearby ocean.”  
-Malachy Duffy, June 2017

## 2013 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir

### *Wine Spectator*

“Elegantly styled, with spicy earth and floral-scented plum and raspberry flavors, offering delicate, understated notes that linger and gain depth. Drink now through 2020.” **90 Points: Outstanding; a wine of superior character and style**

-James Laube, April 2016

### *Newsday*

“**Complex, refined**, fruity, floral, spicy and delightful 2013 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir.”

-Peter Gianotti, March 2016

### *The SOMM Journal*

“**Smoke from Santa Barbara: Our Southern California Panel Inhales a Vertical of Sea Smoke’s Southing and Ten Pinot Noirs**”

“These days, ‘cult’ California Cabernets are plentiful; not true of Golden State Pinot Noirs. **One of the most sought after** of these rare birds is Sea Smoke, a name derived from the damp marine layer of fog that seeps into the Santa Barbara County vineyard from the nearby Pacific Ocean. Made from a rolling, south-facing, 100-acre vineyard in the western part of the Santa Rita Hills, this luscious wine comes in three elegant iterations: Botella, the simpler, basic Pinot; Southing, the most typical Sea Smoke; and Ten, named after the ten different clones planted in the vineyard. On January 16, *Somm Journal* Senior Editor Karen Moneymaker and I sat down with winemaker Don Schroeder and noted Sommelier Paul Coker of Michael Mina’s Stonehill Tavern in Dana Point, CA, to taste eight vintages of Southing and two of Ten. Starting with 2006 Southing and finishing with the 2013, **the wines were stunningly consistent and of extraordinary quality.**”

**2013 Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir - 95 Points: Classic**

**Anthony Dias Blue:** Warm and racy but not even close to being ready! Juicy and very youthful.

**Paul Coker:** Big savory nose, with notes of blackberry cola, black cherry and sage. Massive on the palate, finishing with cherry sweet tannins. **Karen Moneymaker:** Purple flowers, lingonberry, blueberry and plum skin. Heady, tight and young.

-February/ March 2017

### *Wine Enthusiast*

“Ripe and racy on the nose, this always much-anticipated release shows black raspberry, baked strawberry, wet cement, cinnamon and mace spice and cola on the nose. The palate is surprisingly, refreshingly restrained, with sizzling acidity cutting across the chocolate-dipped black cherries, baking spice, dried oregano and rosemary that show in the midpalate.” **94 Points: Superb; A great achievement**

-Matt Kettmann, September 2016

### *FSR Magazine*

**“Another stellar Pinot Noir from this celebrated winery** (drawing from its estate vineyard in a cool climate). This elegant vintage of ‘Southing’ features a nose of wet pebbles and dusty fruit, followed by bright red cherry and raspberry layers, then fine tannins.”

*-Kristine Hansen, August 2016*

### *The Daily Meal*

#### **“Sea Smoke Offers Elegance Under Cork”**

“Try whichever one of these wines you can get your hands on; it’ll be worth your time and your money.”

#### **2013 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**

“This offering is composed entirely of pinot sourced at their estate vineyard. Cluster sorting, destemming and manual punch downs were all utilized. Aging took place over 16 months in French oak; 55 percent of the barrels utilized were new. Big cherry aromas lead the nose along with subtle, but present, wisps of red raspberry.

Continued red fruits dominate the palate. They’re joined by a collection of spices and a lovely mineral component. Bits of mushroom, bay leaf, cranberry and black tea all emerge on the long and persistent finish. Racy acidity and somewhat firm tannins provide excellent structure. **This is a terrific example of pinot noir.** ‘Southing’ is delicious today, particularly if paired with a well selected accompaniment such as slow cooked pork in adobo. However it has the stuffing to improve in the bottle over the next 5-6 years and drink well for another 5 or so after that. In either case you’ll get **a pinot expression that speaks of the grape and the place.**”

*-Gabe Sasso, April 2016*

### *PinotFile*

**“Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard has been considered one of California’s most exceptional vineyards.** Natural vigor reduction derives from the shallow clay soils on the hillsides and carefully selected rootstocks. Each evening a layer of marine fog (‘sea smoke’) funnels up the Santa Ynez River canyon, cooling the vines and extending the growing season. The entire vineyard has been farmed biodynamically since 2013. Meticulous farming techniques include managed deficit irrigation, suckering and shoot thinning, cluster thinning post fruit set, green drop and wing removal on remaining clusters.”

#### **2013 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**

“Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. Plenty of oak-driven spice and vanilla compliment the fruit aromas of blackberry and floral notes of rose and violet. Discreetly concentrated, with flavors of purple and black fruits, graced with spice, dark chocolate and floral accents. Soothing tannins are nicely balanced by juicy acidity and there is some length on the fruit-driven finish.” **91 Points:**

#### **Outstanding**

*-Rusty Gaffney, March 2016*

### *Houston Lifestyles & Homes*

#### **“Winning Wines”**

“From Sta. Rita Hills from a 27-year-old vineyard on a south-facing hillside in one of the only east-west coastal ranges in the U.S. **Elegant is an understatement.**”

*-Denman Moody, August 2016*

*Wisconsin Gazette*

**“Location critical for Sea Smoke wines”**

“Great wine starts with great grapes, and that means grapes planted in the right location, grown and harvested under the proper conditions, and then passed into the hands of talented winemakers. At **Sea Smoke Estate**

**Vineyards**, in California’s sprawling Santa Barbara County, topography is critical to setting the high-end vineyard’s wine apart from its peers, according to Victor Gallegos, the winery’s director of winemaking. In fact, the contours of the land are among the vineyard’s most distinctive and influential features. What’s critical to the pinot noirs and chardonnays that **Sea Smoke** produces can be found in the nature of the land itself. The contours of the land, located near the ‘knee’ of California that juts into the Pacific Ocean, is thought to be the result of a long-ago tectonic plate shift that fractured the traditional valleys that run through portions of the Golden State. The net result of the longer growing season, as well as a cooperage program that utilizes new and used French oak in differing combinations, yields pinot noir and chardonnay varietals of **exceptional quality.**”

**2013 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**

“A complex and elegant, offering a nose of red fruit and spices with pliable tannins and a distinct minerality that balance well on the palate.”

*-Mike Muckian, May 2016*

*Wine Review Online*

**“Coastal Pinot Noir, Still and Sparkling”**

**2013 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir**

“Most recently, my coastal wine enthusiasm was sparked by two Pinot Noirs and a sparkling rosé from Sea Smoke, an estate winery situated in the western end of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA, in Santa Barbara County. I had tasted the Pinot Noirs many times before, going back to the 2005 vintage, when the estate vineyard was only six years old. As the vineyard has matured, the Pinots seem to have grown into themselves, becoming more expressive and nuanced. Sea Smoke produces three estate Pinot Noirs, of which ‘Southing’ is considered the most **elegant and nuanced.**

In a proper large Burgundy glass I could glimpse the majesty of the 2013... and the more that wine aired, the more expressive it became. The next day (stored overnight in the fridge) it was even better. **Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ is obviously a Pinot Noir to take seriously.** In the ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir, I can sense the combination of south-facing ripeness with marine-air fog and coolness that defines the vineyard. The 2013 is very full-bodied, a statuesque Pinot Noir with high alcohol and mouth-filling, ripe flavor, but it has freshness of acidity as well as light and depth within its weight. Its aromas and flavors focus more on red fruits than black, typical of a cooler-climate Pinot; the aroma suggests red cherry, cranberry, savory spices and delicate floral perfume, while its flavors include black cherry and a flinty mineral note. After their initial firmness, the wine’s tannins are finely textured and they integrate well into the wine’s fruit expression. The 2012 is softer and its aromas and flavors tend toward black fruits and herbal notes, but they share with the 2013 the common chord of minerality and an admirably long finish.” **92 Points**

*-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, March 2016*

*The Press Democrat*

“This is a smoky pinot noir with sassy red raspberry aromas and flavors. Notes of mineral and white pepper. Lingering finish. **Impressive.**”

*-Peg Melnik, November 2016*

*The Colorado Springs Gazette*

**“Lively Wines from California’s Central Coast”**

“As with the North Coast, most of the best sites are characterized by proximity to the Pacific Ocean and are impacted by the associated cooling breezes (and sometimes fog), leading to long growing seasons that encourage optimum ripeness with powerful, fresh acidity, yet notable elegance. The Sta. Rita Hills sub-appellation within the Santa Ynez Valley is distinctive as it runs in a west-to-east direction that efficiently funnels cooling fog and winds from the Pacific Ocean. More recently, **Sea Smoke has emerged as a benchmark winery in the area.** Its **2013 Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir** offers loads of fruit and lively structure, yet drinks approachable with intriguing savory notes.”

*-Rich Mauro, November 2016*