

2018 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

The Prince of Pinot

"Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. Brooding aromas initially exhibiting aromas of earth-charged dark fruits. Mid-weight plus in size, with plenty of blackberry and cassis fruit to satisfy. Oak plays a noticeable role. Tightly coiled, with an extremely long, black raspberry infused finish. More personality when tasted the following day from a previously opened bottle. Typically the Southing bottling is more approachable and features dark red fruits. The Ten bottling is bigger, richer, and displays more tannin and oak input while blacker fruits are featured." 94 Points
-Rusty Gaffney, September 2021

The Tasting Panel

"Winemaker Don Schroeder has spent the past 18 years working with the 150 planted acres of Pinot Noir, including ten different clones across more than 30 individual blocks, on the Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard. When we farm, we make decisions that go beyond a single vintage; part of our work is to lay the foundation for the vineyard managers and winemakers who come after us,' says Schroeder in regards to the winery's commitment to organic and Biodynamic farming. A perfume of brined cherries and tilled soil leads to flavors of cinnamon, plum, and lavender. Intense and direct, with a plush finish." 93 Points: Outstanding

-Meridith May, August 2021

Red Wine with Breakfast

"Mother Earth and Sustainable Wines on this Earth Day"

"Thankfully, hundreds of wineries throughout the world have changed their production methods to work cleaner, greener, safer for our environment, and with that, are producing completely representative wines that tell the story of the land, allowing the natural beauty of the terroir to shine. 2018 Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir

Organic and biodynamic farming are the backbone of Sta. Rita Hills Sea Smoke Vineyards, understanding that a healthy ecosystem is the key, and completely necessary for keeping vineyards healthy for many years to come. Bonus, their hands-off approach, and respect for Mother Nature produces some of the finest Pinot Noir wines from the region. Sea Smoke "Ten' Pinot Noir produced from ten different Pinot Noir Clones, seamlessly melds ripe fig and blackberry with savory spices, toasted hazelnut, and a touch of wild lavender." -Hayley Hamilton Cogill, April 2021

2017 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

Wine Enthusiast

Candied cherry and darker berry aromas meet with star anise, crumple purple flowers and crushed slate on the intoxicating nose of this bottling from the estate biodynamically farmed monopole vineyard. Intense acidity and lavish tannins make for a simultaneously bright and rich expression on the palate, where black cherry and black raspberry are lofted by cardamom and mace." **95 Points:**

Superb; a great achievement

-Matt Kettmann, October 2020

Wine Review Online

"It has a brilliant future ahead as the carefully selected oak folds into the rich dark fruit mix. Seductively blended from ten different clones, it's a deeply textured wine that will please for years to come." 95 Points

-Rich Cook, August 2020

The Prince of Pinot

"Dark garnet color in the glass. Aromas of black cherry, blackberry, dark rose petal and earthy flora lead off. Mouth-filling, extravagant purple and black fruits attack the palate in a mid-weight plus style. Sleek and polished with a touch of oak. The finish is not as long as the 2017 Southing bottling but this wine has more mid palate impact. Still somewhat tight compared to the 2017 Southing with more tannins and probably more age worthy. Much better the following day with more aromatic goodness." 94 Points

-Rusty Gaffney, September 2021

OwenBargreen.com

"Top 100 of 2020"

"The 2017 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir is a sensational effort from this enticing vintage in the Santa Rita Hills. Aged for sixteen months in largely new French oak barrels (68%), the wine slowly unveils layers of red fruits that combine with shades of wild mushroom, salted Marcona almond and Satsuma orange zest that all meld together in the glass. The palate is intense, round and generous, revealing a silky mouthfeel that really impresses. The length of the wine surprises, as bright Bing cherry, cran-pomegrante, orange rind and diatomaceous earth tones flood the palate. The mouthwatering acidity and tension of the wine is seriously good. Fantastic in its youth, the 2017 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir will provide drinking enjoyment for decades to come. Drink 2020-2038." 94 Points

-Owen Bargreen, December 2020

Fort Bend Focus Magazine

"After tasting around 200 red wines in the last months, here is the cream of the crop.

2017 Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir

'Lavender and blackberries.' Perfect wine to show off a Riedel Pinot Noir glass."

-Denman Moody, December 2020

South Florida Reporter

"The top wine in this venerable pinot noir producer's portfolio, Ten' uses 10 clones to create a very expressive pinot noir from Sta. Rita Hills. Floral and blackberry aromas lead to layered dark fruit

flavors with beautiful umami notes and soft tannins." -Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, June 2020

2016 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Holiday splurge: "A beguiling, aromatic red from Santa Barbara wine country's buzziest pinot producer."

-Michele Parente, December 2019

Forbes

"Wines Of The Week: ... Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir"

"My red Wine of the Week is the Sea Smoke Pinot Noir Ten' 2016, a cult-status Pinot that manages to both express the uniqueness of the biodynamic estate vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills, and at the same time convey an almost Burgundian sense of haunting subtlety. Aromatically, it's very much on the quiet side before it gets some air in the glass or decanter, with hints of red cherry, cinnamon stick, ground nutmeg, and star anise fluttering above the liquid. These prime the palate for flavors of bing and black cherry, black raspberry, peppercorn, candied violets, and hints of cola spice, lavender, and rooibos. The way it threads the needle between concentrated power and finesse is remarkable. The name Ten' is a reference to the 10 clones of Pinot Noir that go into the wine, which all come together with a particular sense of brilliance in this vintage. The wine was aged in 100% French oak, of which 60% was new, and released this past October for \$82. It's available online for a bit more than that, but the average price is over \$100. Which, it seems to me, is more than reasonable for a Pinot Noir that delivers as much pleasure as this one does.

2016 Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir

This has an unexpectedly subtle nose until it gets some air, with red cherry, cinnamon stick, a touch of ground nutmeg, and star anise. On the palate, more assertive concentration carries the day, with beautiful bing and black cherry, black raspberry, peppercorn, candied violets, and clove. With a bit of air, distinct rose petal notes emerge from the nose and find a counterpart on the palate, as well as a touch of cola spice, rooibos, and lavender. Enjoy this now or hold it for another 15 years."

-Brian Freedman, August 2019

Wine Enthusiast

"Baked cranberry, cherry, clove, vanilla bean and mossy earth show on the nose of this always much anticipated bottling from the region's first cult producer. The palate is tangy with rounded blackplum, star anise and black-peppercorn flavors. It's excellent now, but those tart elements will find more integration with patience. Drink 2019–2035." 94 Points, *Cellar Selection*: Superb; a great achievement

-Matt Kettmann, October 2018

PinotFile

"Sea Smoke's Estate Vineyard was planted in 1999 in the Sta. Rita Hills. What makes the site unique is that it is located in one of the only east-west coastal mountain ranges in the United States. Because of this, a layer of marine fog known as 'sea smoke,' travels up the Santa Ynez River canyon each evening cooling the vines. This cooling influence allows flavors and tannins to slowly and fully mature, and also preserves the bright acidity typical of the Pinot Noirs from this region.

The "Ten' bottling is a blend of all ten clones planted at the organic and biodynamic-certified Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard. Winemaker Don Schroeder has been at Sea Smoke for many years and this has allowed him to understand the nuances of this great winegrowing site. He has learned how to do just enough as a winemaker to let what makes the vineyard so exceptional to shine through without obscuring the beauty of the site. Over the past fifteen vintages, "Ten' has become a more complex and compelling wine as a result."

2016 Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir

"Moderate garnet color in the glass. Alluring aromas of purple berries, spice and a shade of oak. Immediately open and giving in a mid weight plus style, featuring flavors of boysenberry and blackberry with a deft hint of oak. **Expansive in the mouth** with a cohesive tannic backbone and a very long and intensely fruity finish. Very polished, with fruit that offers a really charming spark of pleasure. Even better when tasted several hours later from a previously opened and re-corked bottle. The balance in this wine predicts favorable age ability. A perfect accompaniment would be a grilled prime New York steak." **96 Points: Extraordinary. An exceptional wine of great breeding and a highly recommended purchase**

-Rusty Gaffney, February 2019

2015 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

The Tasting Panel

"Ten types of low-vigor French Pinot Noir clones were selected for the planting of Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard in 1999. As Winemaker Don Schroeder explains, "The wealth of clones at our vineyard is one of the keys to the complexity of our wines," This bottling is made from all ten clones farmed directly from the organic- and Biodynamic- certified estate vineyard: Aged 16 months in French oak, it shows scents of chocolate syrup and baked plum pudding. A solemn Pinot, it remains extravagant with flavors of black cherry washed with rose petals and rhubarb. Tilled soil, beet root, and firm tannins prove its profundity." 95 Points

-Meridith May, August 2018

The Tasting Panel

"Spiced oak aromas entice in this intense and large-boned Pinot Noir, enhanced by the marine fog (aka 'sea smoke') that travels up the Santa Ynez River canyon every evening. Made with low-vigor clones grown on shallow clay soils and aged 16 months in French oak, it has bright acidity and a dense texture. Robust meaty notes are tempered by lavender and cherry." 95 Points: Classic -Meridith May, April 2019

Vinous

"Sea Smoke's 2016 Pinot Noir Ten is rich, boisterous and inviting from the very first taste. A wine of real immediacy and impact, the Ten has so much to offer. Black cherry, plum, hard candy, lavender, sweet spice and new oak are front and center in this lush, beautifully persistent Pinot Noir from Sea Smoke. The Ten will appeal most to readers who appreciate lush Pinots. There is certainly plenty to like here, that much is obvious." 93 Points: Outstanding. A wine of remarkable personality and breed that is well worth seeking out

-Antonio Galloni, September 2019

PinotFile 1 4 1

"Composed of ten French clones from the organic and biodynamic certified Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard. A selection of the most robust wines of the vintage and as a result, the darkest and richest of the Sea Smoke bottlings. Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. A brooding wine that seems reluctant to engage the drinker upon opening. Rustic aromas of clay, earth and dark berry and stone fruits. A voluptuous mouthful of purple and black berry and black plum fruit flavors greet the palate along with firm but not muscled tannins. Harmonious in mouth feel and character with a purple-fruited finish that seems endless. A little more appealing when tasted the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle with more aromatic goodness and fruit expression. The wine was just starting to come out of its shell three days later and was very seductive. Challenging to score this wine as it needs a few more years in bottle. Don't even think about drinking it now." 93-95

Points: Outstanding-Extraordinary

-Rusty Gaffney, April 2018

Capital Gazette

"This wine uses all 10 of the clones planted on the producer's organic- and biodynamic-certified estate vineyard. Using the best barrel selection of the vintage, the result is expectedly spectacular. Very concentrated and dark, "Ten' is a big, robust pinot noir for those who are hard to impress. Floral aromas with blueberry and red berry flavors, enduring spice notes, fine tannins and good finish"

-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, May 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

WineSearcher.com

"The World's Most Wanted Pinot Noirs"

"This wine takes its name from the 10 different Pinot Noir clones on the property. The wine is generally slightly heavier than the 'Southing', and matures in a higher percentage of new oak." -Tom Jarvis, June 2018

2014 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

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

-Andy Blue, June 2017

Vivino.com

"Wine Style Awards 2020 Californian Pinot Noir"

"More than any other red variety in California, the quality of Pinot Noir has skyrocketed in the last 10 years. California now makes Pinot Noir on a par with the great Pinots of Burgundy and Oregon. That said, the style of California Pinot Noir is, of course, different. The wines are more richly

textured, more deeply fruited and have a bit more body than the Pinots of Burgundy or Oregon. California Pinot Noir is grown in cool appellations all along the coast of the state from the far north to the far south.

#1. 2014 Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir – 4.6 out of 5 Stars" -May 2020

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

PinotFile 1 4 1

"Crafted from the organically farmed and biodynamic certified Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard by winemaker Don Schroeder who has been at Sea Smoke since 2003. Moderate garnet color in the glass. Plenty of spicy boysenberry fruit aromas are joined with subtle notes of toast and vanilla. Very welcoming in the mouth, with a suave mouthfeel, bright acidity and gentle tannins. The taste of fresh purple berry fruits have expansive energy in the mouth and on the lengthy and uplifting finish. The barrel treatment is adroitly managed. An aristocratic wine that has the balance to carry on for many years." 93 Points: Outstanding

-Rusty Gaffney, April 2017

Wine Review Online

"Gorgeous mix of black cherry, strawberry, exotic spice and damp earth delivered over taut acidity and structured tannins. The finish leads with a kiss of sweet oak and gets you salivating for your next bite." 93 Points

-Rich Cook, June 2017

Check, Please! Bay Area KQED

"When Pinot Noir is remarkable, there's nothing like it. I have imbibed my fair share of great examples, but Sea Smoke ranks among my most treasured tastes of Pinot Noir. Hailing from a stunning hillside, fog-laden (hence the name) estate vineyard in the cool Sta. Rita Hills appellation of Santa Barbara, Sea Smoke's Pinots have garnered rave reviews for a reason. They're damn fine. I had the opportunity to visit the property a number of years ago and it is impressive. (Just peruse their website for photos and prepare to be transported.) Their flagship bottling is dubbed "Ten' as it uses ten different clones of Pinot Noir from their vineyard. This gives layers of complexity and character. The wine is lush, full and deeply fruited. It definitely lives up to the name — I give it a perfect 10."

-Leslie Sbrocco, September 2017

Wine Spectator Insider

"A First Look at our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines"

"This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks."

2014 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

"Finely textured, with well-knit flavors of red currant, raspberry and cherry that are plushly spiced.

Chocolate and savory notes show midpalate, presenting a rich finish of sandalwood and thyme. Drink now through 2021." 92 Points: Outstanding; a wine of superior character and style -Kim Marcus, June 2017

International Wine Report

"The Sea Smoke Ten' is comprised from Ten different Pinot Noir clones (777, 667, 2a, 115, 113, 828, 05, 459, 09 and 16) sourced from the Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard. The 2014 is an outstanding showing, as it bursts with attractive aromas of cherries, strawberries and pomegranate coming together with exotic spices, cola, floral and a touch of black tea all taking shape. On the palate this is beautifully balanced with a gorgeous round, silky texture supported by just enough acidity to keep it fresh and inviting. Everything all comes together on the finish where juicy red fruits and spices continue to linger effortlessly. This is an impressive showing from the team at Sea Smoke, who have done a fantastic job maintaining the freshness, while achieving optimum ripeness levels, without letting the wine become out of balance – a character that readers who enjoy a more traditional style of Pinot Noir will find welcoming. Best 2018-2030." 93 Points: Excellent; highly recommended

-Joe D'Angelo, April 2017

Food & Wine

"Forget Everything You Know About California Pinot Noir—Here are 12 bottles to help you rethink this popular grape."

"California is such an exciting place for Pinot Noir right now because of the range of microclimates and soils in which it can be grown. Differences in elevations, underlying geology, exposures to the ocean, fog, daytime sun, evening chill, divergent winemaking philosophies, and more continue to create a stunning mosaic of Pinot Noirs throughout California. It's as exciting a time as it has ever been for these wines no matter what style you prefer.

Here are a dozen wines that embody all of the excitement of Pinot Noir in the state right now.

2014 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

Dark and rich on the nose, with black cherries, vanilla oak spice, and something almost meaty, and a juicy, still-youthful palate of spice-tinged blackberry coulis and chocolate-enrobed caramel. Needs time, but will mature beautifully in the cellar."

-Brian Freedman, January 2018

Houston Lifestyles & Homes

"From the organic — and biodynamic — certified Estate Vineyard, as well as another over-the-top vintage. "...notes of cola and black currant, then a myriad of spices, dusty blueberry and a hint of tea leaves." Fabulous."

-Denman Moody, July 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 fruitforward wines have attracted from Pinot Noir lovers over the last decade or so. Sea Smoke is named for the Pacific Ocean fog which rolls in over its vines every afternoon...The second entry for Sea Smoke. 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. Like its partner on this list it sees 16 months in French oak barrels, but with 70 percent new wood."

-Tom Jarvis, May 2017

D Magazine

"If dad is a Pinot fan, he will be overjoyed with **Sea Smoke 'Ten'**. The wine is produced from 10 clones of Pinot Noir fruit, each melding harmoniously, telling the story of their Santa Rita Hills estate."

-Hayley Hamilton Cogill

Wine Review Online

"Sea Smoke's Biodynamic grapes are influenced by the cool microclimate of the Santa Ynez River Canyon. This Pinot Noir is both intense and complex, with concentrated flavors of dark fruit lightly spiced with oak. Firm, well integrated tannins support that wine's overall good structure. A little heat on the finish can be distracting, but this is still a very young wine whose rough edges will undoubtedly smooth out with a couple of years of cellaring. Alternatively, if you can't wait that long (I couldn't) decant the wine before serving it." 92 Points

-Marguerite Thomas, May 2018

Capital Gazette

"Go Organic Wine without Sacrificing Taste"

"This estate Sta. Rita Hills vineyard is certified organic and biodynamic. The 'Ten' is one of the most delicious pinot noirs we have tasted, so responsible farming certainly hasn't interfered with quality here. Using 10 clones of pinot noir, the wine is multidimensional with a luxurious texture, rich and concentrated currant and blueberry flavors with a good dose of spice."

-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, April 2017

Santa Barbara News-Press

"Still (Sea) Smoking after all these years"

"It seems like only vesterday 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 Ten Pinot Noir

"This is the big brother to Southing, a bottling that includes all the pinot clones planted on the property and typically consists of a selection of the richest and most extracted barrels in the winery. Not shy on the nose, it shows aromas of black cherry, blackberry, pomegranate and an earthy spiciness. Flavors follow the aromatics, with dark cherry/berry fruit, very concentrated and very bold, as well as black currant, cola and dried tea leaves. Full-bodied but a bit reined in from previous vintages, it has integrated tannins and lifted acidity that make for an upbeat finish. Still this is a heart of darkness pinot noir that delivers all the goods it promises."

-Dennis Schaefer, February 2017

2013 Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir

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

"The name is derived from ten low vigor French clones planted in the Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard. While "Ten' incorporates all ten clones, it is also a barrel selection of the richest and most extracted wines of the vintage. Moderately dark reddish purple color in the glass. 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. Decant this beauty when you pull the cork." **94 Points:**

Extraordinary

-Rusty Gaffney, June 2016

Houston Lifestyles & Homes

"Winning Wines"

"The top tier of Sea Smoke's Pinots, this wine is from select barrels with the richest and most extracted juice. 'Poise and power."

-Denman Moody, November 2016

Into Wine

"50 California Central Coast Wines You Should Be Drinking Right Now"

"Using 10 different Pinot Noir clones from their estate vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills, Santa Barbara based **Sea Smoke has created an allure with their wines**. This cool region helps craft a wine that is full of soft raspberry fruit, cola, cedar, resin and pomegranate, supported by a strong but subtle acidity. The wines hangs around on the palate, making the experience of drinking this lovely wine a ten in and of itself."

-Michael Cervin, July 2016

Wine Review Online

"Although it is undeniably big and intense, this Pinot Noir also has a softer, gentler side. The overall sensation is of power dancing with elegance. The wine offers meltingly soft and seductive dark fruits, but it also has an edgier earthiness that is missing to all too many Pinots these days. Firm tannins and a long finish are part of the charm of Ten." 93 Points

-Marguerite Thomas, July 2017

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.

MacNeil's baker's dozen to try

The fog that rolls in off the Pacific Ocean is called sea smoke by the locals, hence this wine's name. "Ten' refers to the number of clones that it is made from... give this wine an hour in a decanter and it will unfold itself in thick drapes of flavor. Drink 2017-2027." 91 Points: Highly recommended -Karen MacNeil, September 2016

The Detroit News

"Two words, 'Sea Smoke,' make students of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and blanc de noirs sparkling wines sit up straight. Sea Smoke's seriously allocated world-class wines are grown on biodynamically farmed hillsides above the Santa Ynez River in the Santa Rita Hills AVA in Santa Barbara County. Sea Smoke wines have had a cult-like following since the first releases in 2001. The meticulously hand-farmed vineyards are perched along one of the few east-west mountain ranges in the country, which means the river valley acts like a funnel to channel in the fog, or sea smoke. It keeps the vineyards cool and extends hang time for the grapes."

2013 Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir

"This is an intense, brooding, full-bodied Pinot Noir. Flavors are concentrated; fine-grain tannins coat the mouth; it has good weight. Inhale and the aromas light up all the sensory points in your head with blueberry, blackberry, cherry, pomegranate, cinnamon/clove and black pepper. It's called Ten because it's made from 10 French pinot noir clones. It's an awesome wine."

-Sandra Silfven, August 2016

Vivino.com

"Californian Pinot Noir"

"More than any other red variety in California, the quality of Pinot Noir has skyrocketed in the last 10 years.

California now makes Pinot Noir on par with the great Pinots of Burgundy and Oregon.

That said, the style of California Pinot Noir is, of course, different. The wines are more richly textured, more deeply fruited and have a bit more body than the Pinots of Burgundy or Oregon. California Pinot Noir is grown in cool appellations all along the coast of the state from the far north to the far south.

4. 2013 Sea Smoke 'Ten' Pinot Noir"

-May 2019

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 Vineyard, 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.

The temperature change also creates an extended growing season for the biodynamically managed vineyards, the winemaker adds. The grapes have more 'hang-time' on the vines, which allows them to naturally develop ripe tannins, optimal flavors and lovely aromatics.

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 'Ten' Pinot Noir

"The 2013 Sea Smoke Ten' Pinot Noir is a more robust and full-bodied wine with spice and black cherry flavors supported by firm tannins that indicate a long cellar life. The variation in character comes from the differing grapes themselves matched once again to variance in vineyard characteristics, Gallegos says."

-Mike Muckian, May 2016