



***Food & Wine***

**“The Buyer's Guide to 75 of the Best California Wines”**

**Insider's Favorites - Pinot Noir**

“Sea Smoke, named after the fog that blows from the ocean through the Sta. Rita Hills in Santa Barbara County, **continues to garner acclaim for its complex, estate-grown Pinot Noirs.**”

*-Ray Isle, September 2016*

***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.**”

*-Jeb Dunnuck, August 2015*

***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.**”

*-Meridith May, April 2018*

***Wine Enthusiast***

“**One of the appellation's most coveted producers.**”

*-Matt Kettmann, August 2015*

***Wine Advocate***

“At their best, the **Sea Smoke Pinots offer gorgeous textural richness, depth and personality.**”

*-Antonio Galloni, August 2012*

***Wine Spectator***

**“A Region's Wine Stars Define Its Quality”**

**Sea Smoke:** “An important part of Santa Barbara's wine scene and **one of its 'grand cru' properties.**”

*-James Laube, March 2008*

***Forbes***

“**One of the most sought-after Pinot Noir producers in California.**”

*-Brian Freedman, December 2014*

***Wine Enthusiast***

“**One of the appellation's most celebrated vineyards.**”

*-Matt Kettmann, May 2015*

***PinotFile***

“Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard has been considered **one of California’s most exceptional vineyards.**”

-Rusty Gaffney, March 2016

***Wine Enthusiast***

“**One of the appellation’s first superstar wineries.**”

-Matt Kettmann, November 2016

***Forbes***

“Some argue the plot of land that Sea Smoke grapes are grown on is **one of, if not the finest, plots in California.**”

-Katie Kelly Bell, April 2015

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

“Sea Smoke’s Chardonnay is **a special wine from a special place.** I’ve visited countless vineyards worldwide over the years and this is truly one of the **most magnificent.**”

-Leslie Sbrocco, June 2019

***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.**”

-Dennis Schaefer, February 2017

***The Tasting Panel***

“**The role model for California Pinot.**”

-Andy Blue, June 2017

***The SOMM Journal***

“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.**”

-Anthony Dias Blue, February/March 2017

***American Wine: The Ultimate Companion to the Wines and Wineries of the United States***

“**Sta. Rita Hills AVA Superstars: Sea Smoke**”

“Arguably Sta. Rita Hills’ most sought after Pinot Noir”

-Jancis Robinson and Linda Murphy, 2013

***Newsday***

“**An ardent advocate for the Sta. Rita Hills.**”

-Peter Gianotti, May 2015

***Forbes***

“**Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County**”

“This growing district has become **arguably the finest for Pinot Noir in the state.**”

Victor Gallegos, General Manager and Director of Winemaking **for Sea Smoke, a celebrated area**

**producer**, comments on this territory.

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.”

-Tom Hyland, December 2018

### **Saveur**

“Victor Gallegos, the general manager of Sea Smoke, which has gained national renown in recent years, brought all three of the winery’s pinot noirs: **alluring, complex wines that have earned a cult following in California and beyond.**”

-Georgia Freedman, March 2009

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

“Pinot Noir inspires people because it’s such a difficult grape to make into great wine. When it’s 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 Sta. 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

### **Wine Enthusiast**

**“America’s Best Pinot Noirs: We name the top addresses for the variety, region by region.”**  
**“Sta. Rita Hills Elite Producers: Sea Smoke”**

-Steve Heimoff, October 2013

### **Wine Spectator**

**“Top 100 Wines at a Glance”**

“Located in the Sta. Rita Hills appellation of Santa Barbara County, the Sea Smoke estate vineyard was planted in 1999. Each of the 11 wines produced from it by Sea Smoke and other wineries since the 2001 vintage have been **outstanding.**”

-James Laube, January 2007

### **Food & Wine**

**“Wine Buying Guide 2008”**

**“Star Producers – Pinot Noir”**

**Top Five “Best of the Best”: Sea Smoke**

-Jamal Rayyis, 2008

### **Houston Chronicle**

**“A California Central Coast ‘cult’ favorite.”**

-Dale Robertson, February 2017

### **Wine Advocate**

**“One of the most promising of the new breed Pinot Noir specialists from the Sta. Rita Hills,** Sea Smoke continues to demonstrate a sure touch with this fickle varietal.”

-Robert Parker, August 2006

***San Francisco Chronicle***

“All the fuss about nearly unobtainable Sea Smoke Pinot Noir is justified because it’s **just plain delicious.**”

-*W. Blake Gray, December 2005*

***Forbes.com***

“Sea Smoke produces some of the most sought-after Pinot Noirs in California from their biodynamically farmed estate vineyard.”

-*Brian Freedman, August 2019*

***Wine-Searcher***

**“10 Most Wanted Pinot Noirs”**

**Sea Smoke ‘Ten’ Pinot Noir**

**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.”

-*Tom Jarvis, May 2017*

***Food & Wine***

“Today, new vineyards are being planted everywhere—including those of the much-acclaimed winery Sea Smoke. **The Pinots were powerful and distinctive**, an impression no doubt enhanced by their rarity.”

-*Chip Brown, April 2008*

***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.**”

-*Hayley Hamilton Cogill, November 2016*

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

“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.”

-*Leslie Sbrocco, September 2017*

***South Florida Reporter***

**“One of our perennial favorites, Sea Smoke pinot noir has a lot of elegance.”**

-*Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, January 2020*

***Summit Daily***

“Sea Smoke, owned by entrepreneur Bob Davids, may be the most well-known wine of the group, having achieved **cult status** after **outstanding early reviews** by James Laube in Wine Spectator. Victor Gallegos has been a key character in the ascension of the brand to one of the Sta. Rita Hills **brightest stars.** He can tell you how the constant quest to excel has led the winery to alter their growing practices and become 100% biodynamic.”

-*Kelly J. Hayes, January 2020*

*Vines & Vision: The Winemakers of Santa Barbara County*

**“Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard**

**Building a Biodynamically Farmed Monopole”**

“Sea Smoke’s early vintages won rave reviews from critics, including *Wine Spectator’s* Jim Laube, whose 2003 scores and stories put Sea Smoke on the map. Praise from many other critics and collectors followed, and **Sea Smoke was suddenly Santa Barbara County’s first cult brand...**”

*-Matt Kettmann and Macdulf Everton, March 2021*

*The Colorado Springs Gazette*

**“Sea Smoke, a highly regarded pinot noir specialist”**

*-Rich Mauro, December 2020*

*Into Wine*

**“50 California Central Coast Wines You Should Be Drinking Right Now”**

“Sea Smoke has created an allure with their wines.”

*-Michael Cervin, July 2016*

*Wine Review Online*

“More famed for its Pinot Noir, especially since a 2004 movie in which it got a full-screen label shot, Sea Smoke has been quietly making this sparkler for some time, and it’s always got something new to offer.”

*-Rich Cook, December 2020*

*The Colorado Springs Gazette*

“The Sta. 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.”

*-Rich Mauro, June 2020*

*South Florida Reporter*

“venerable pinot noir producer”

*-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, June 2020*

*Hayley Hamilton Cogill’s Instagram*

“Consistently one of the best from California’s Sta. Rita Hills”

*-Hayley Hamilton Cogill, July 2020*

*Napa Valley Register*

“I stopped by to savor the **exalted** Sta. Rita Hills’ Sea Smoke, a wine with a reputation of a three-year waiting for its allocation.”

*-Mira Advani Honeycutt, March 2017*

*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 Sta. Rita Hills AVA in Santa Barbara County. **Sea Smoke wines have had a cult-like following since the first releases in 2001.**”

*-Sandra Silfven, August 2016*

**Capital Gazette**

**“Just about everything from this Sta. Rita Hills producer is smoking hot.”**

-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, July 2017

**News Break**

**“The Best North American Champagne Alternatives”**

“Not many wineries in Santa Barbara produce sparkling wine, but Sea Smoke in the Santa Rita Hills AVA proves that it can be done very well with the right microclimate. Their vineyards are situated on hillside bluffs, moderated by marine fog ‘sea smoke’ funneled in from the coast through the Santa Ynez River canyon each day. The cooling influence allows flavors and tannins to develop slowly, while preserving acidity, and the shallow clay soils reduce vine vigor, creating smaller grapes clusters with more concentrated flavors.”

-Amber Gibson, December 2020

**Vail Daily**

**“Sea Smoke has been a sensation** since it premiered earlier this century. Sea Smoke makes highly collectible wines from its estate vineyard, including the Southing and Ten.”

-Kelly Hayes, January 2017

**IntoWine**

“Sea Smoke began Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in 1999, and has since established itself as **one of the premier producers in this region.**”

-Michael Cervin, May 2017

**Wine Enthusiast**

“...the coveted biodynamic vineyard...”

-Matt Kettmann, May 2020

**The Colorado Springs Gazette**

“This winery’s organic and biodynamic estate vineyards in the Sta. Rita Hills are known for complex, full-bodied yet elegant wines.”

-Rich Mauro, November 2018

**The Wine Odyssey**

**“Sea Smoke’s pinot noirs have rightly enjoyed enthusiastic response from pinot noir connoisseurs and wine critics.** But I think its chardonnay is a gem, too.”

-John Foy, July 2017

**Mark Oldman’s newsletter**

“‘cult Pinot’ **Sea Smoke**”

-Mark Oldman, March 2021

**The Food, Drink & Travel Report**

**“This is a producer whose wines I look forward to tasting vintage after vintage.”**

-Brian Freedman, August 2015

**CityEats by Food Network**

**“Sea Smoke: Standout Pinot and Chardonnay from the Sta. Rita Hills”**

“Every once in a while, I taste a wine that makes me sit up a little bit straighter, that crystallizes and embodies everything I love about the wines from a certain part of the world. That’s what happened

recently when I tasted three sample bottles of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Sea Smoke. The result is a line-up of wines that, though occasionally difficult to find, is **more than worth the effort to seek out**. They lift even meals that otherwise might be merely very good, to a level of noteworthiness that only a handful of special bottles ever help facilitate.”

*-Brian Freedman, February 2013*

### ***Food & Wine***

#### **“Best New Winery”**

*-Richard Nalley, October 2006*

### ***WineSearcher.com***

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

**“Sea Smoke ‘Southing’ Pinot Noir grabs top spot in the list below, up one place from 2017.”**

#### **1. 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.

#### **4. Sea Smoke ‘Ten’ Pinot Noir**

Like last year, Sea Smoke is the only producer with two wines in the top 10.”

*-Tom Jarvis, June 2018*

### ***City and Shore***

#### **“Noir-Thrillers: California Begins to Catch – And Even Surpass – the World-Class French Pinot Noirs”**

“Santa Barbara County is another place in California where pinot noir grapes excel. Two wineries helping to maintain that reputation are...and Sea Smoke...while the Sea Smoke famous libations are higher priced (but worth every penny), extremely complex, and, I believe, will be even better after a couple years of bottle aging.”

*-Bob Hosmon, February 2012*

### ***The Newport Daily News***

“One of my all-time favorite wines from the area is **Sea Smoke**, however, it is difficult to find and tends to be a bit pricey but so worth it. If you see it, get it! It is highly sought after.”

*-Len Panaggio, September 2020*

### ***PG Rated***

“The biodynamic estate excels with this floral, stylish, and refined pinot.”

*-Peter Gianotti, August 2020*

### ***Gulf & Main***

**“If you see Sea Smoke on a label, you can insure the pinot inside will be impressive.”**

*-Gina Birch, December 2011*

### ***Touring & Tasting***

#### **“Stunning Santa Barbara Wine Country”**

“Sta. Rita Hills—the de facto place for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir—includes heavy hitters like... Sea Smoke.”

*-Michael Cervin, July 2014*

*The Colorado Springs Gazette*

**“Premium Pinot Found in California”**

“The Sta. Rita Hills in the western end of the valley have garnered special attention in recent years, with wineries like Sea Smoke producing **some of the state’s most individualistic wines.**”

-Rich Mauro, March 2011

*Wine Minute Radio Spot*

“Sea Smoke Cellars. Located in the Sta. Rita Hills, Sea Smoke specializes in Pinot Noir. Small-production, high-quality, and **some of the best I've tasted.**”

-Tom Simoneau, March 2008

*Santa Barbara Independent*

“... and Sea Smoke, some of **the most iconic names in the region.**”

-Melinda Burns, May 2021

*Santa Barbara News-Press*

**“Please stand in line so you can experience Sea Smoke at least once in your life.** Stupendous pinot noirs.”

-Dennis Schaefer, April 2007

*Wine Lines Online*

**“Sea Smoke, the Cult of Cool”**

-Glen Frederiksen, August 2012

*Cuvée Corner*

**“The Pinot Files: Top Ten Central Coast Pinot Noir Producers”**

**#1 – Sea Smoke**

“Born in 1999, a culmination of many years invested in tireless research, Sea Smoke vineyard is a proprietor's (Bob Davids) vision of all things great about Sta. Rita Hills. **If you walk the vineyard, you get an instant sense of why it is so special.** Only the south-facing hillsides are under vine and diurnal temperatures are about as perfect as they come; ensuring long maturation process. In the vineyard, meticulously farmed, small batch, and an artisanal winemaking approach, yields wines of integrity, complexity and pure class.”

-Ilona Thompson, May 2014

*The News-Star website*

**“Beautiful Scenery, Wines in Santa Barbara County”**

“There are more than 100 wineries and several independent grape growing farms located in the county. **One of the most desirable vineyards growing grapes in all of the United States** is in the Sta. Rita Hills area of Santa Barbara County. It is called Sea Smoke.”

-March 2014

*Stratos*

**“The Next Generation of Cult Wines”**

“Named for the coastal fog that creates a unique microclimate ideally suited to its pinot noir grapes, **Sea Smoke crafts some of the most sought after pinots in the Golden State and beyond.**”

-Chris Rubin, September 2007



**PinotFile**

**“Sea Smoke Cellars: California Cult Classic”**

-November 2011

**Decor & Style**

“This up-and-comer located in the Sta. Rita Hills has reached shooting-star status almost overnight. But don’t expect it to burn up in the atmosphere. **It’s worth searching out.**”

-Steven Mayer, April 2007

**Red Wine with Breakfast**

“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.”

-Hayley Hamilton Cogill, April 2021

**M Magazine**

**“My favorite label is Sea Smoke** – the pinot noir is amazing if you can find it.”

-Janet Raasch, December 2009

**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

**AARP Magazine**

**“One of the area’s top wines.”**

-Peter Greenberg, June 2009

**Capital Time**

**“Subtle fruit and fine craftsmanship give Sea Smoke pinots their outstanding character.”**

-Michael Muckian, October 2006

**Virginian-Pilot**

**Lindsay Bennett, co-owner/sommelier, Press Wine Bar**

“[Sea Smoke] is a small producer which crafts **highly sought-after pinot noirs.**”

-Patrick Evans-Hylton, December 2018

**PinotFile**

“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.”

-Rusty Gaffney, February 2019

**Hugh Johnson’s Pocket Wine Book 2019**

**Sea Smoke – Well known, highly reputed**

-Hugh Johnson, Published 2018

***Wine Review Online***

**Sea Smoke 'Southing' Pinot Noir**

**“This is always a top-flight offering”**

*-Rich Cook, May 2021*

***Wine & Spirits***

**“30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Restaurant Poll”**

**“Most Popular Pinot Noirs”**

**Sea Smoke Southing Pinot Noir**

**Sea Smoke Ten Pinot Noir**

*-April 2019*

***Wine Review Online***

**“Big Can Be Beautiful”**

“Founded in 1999, the property specializes in Pinot Noir and also grows Chardonnay. 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.”

*-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, February 2019*

***San Francisco Magazine***

“A hip brand coveted by the cognoscenti.”

*-Ian Devereux White, December 2017*

***The San Diego Union-Tribune***

“Santa Barbara wine country’s buzziest pinot producer.”

*-Michele Parente, December 2019*