

The Denver Gazette

A cornucopia of inviting, reasonably affordable pinot noir

I have been increasingly impressed with the quality of Oregon and California pinot noir in recent years. My recent tastings were so prolific, I decided to write two columns. The only downside is that prices have risen rather aggressively.

Because pinot noir is especially transparent of the site in which it is grown, many wineries' most expensive wines are single vineyard expressions. My last column focused on those wines, all over \$50. The wines in this column, while not inexpensive by any means (priced under \$50), are less costly as they are blends of various sites.

They may not display the uniqueness of single vineyard bottlings. They are likely to be made from younger vines whose grapes my yield slightly less complexity (though, not always). But, while their more expensive siblings are expressive of a single site, these wines are more a representation of the broader appellation.

As such, I have organized my recommendations by appellation and listed the wines in order of my preference within each appellation. Collectively, they are a cornucopia of inviting, reasonably affordable wines.

Russian River Valley

2019 Gary Farrell Russian River Selection (\$45), lively red fruit, pure, forest, spice rich.