

Patty's Pinot Closet Newsletter

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Monterey County Pinot Noir's

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Patty's Pinot Closet publishes this newsletter on the enjoyment and appreciation of Pinot Noir. I welcome you to enjoy the newsletters and to share them with others. I live in Pebble Beach, CA in the heart of the Monterey County Pinot Noir growing area. My credentials as a reviewer can be found at Patty's Pinot Closet.

Why Monterey County First

I've chosen Monterey County as the first area to review as that's where we live and so many wonderful pinot noir's come from this area. The ratings are absolutely mine – I've tasted each and every one of these wines myself. My list contained 112 pinot noir's and 68 are reviewed in this newsletter – I managed to get to half. Not all of the wineries are located in Monterey County but they made their pinot noir from Monterey County grapes. Some reportedly wonderful pinot noir's that I didn't get to are: Roar, Siduri, and Ojai. Hopefully, next year I'll get to those. If anyone does taste these pinot noir's, please let me know how you liked them. Click here to learn more about [Monterey County appellations](#).

Duck Goes With Pinot Noir

Pairing wine and food can result in especially wonderful dining experiences. Finding those special pairings is one of my particular quests. Braised Duck Legs with Pinot Noir Sauce and Pinot Noir constitutes one of those great pairings. [Patty's Pinot Closet - Braised Duck Legs With Pinot Noir Sauce](#)

New Concept In Wine Shops

A new wine shop, "Wine Styles", with a new concept, has opened in the Country Club Shopping Center, Pacific Grove, CA. Wines are organized by food types rather than by varietal or winery. Stop in and tell Charm Edwards what you are having for dinner and he will help you pick a wine. You can also send him an e-mail: charm@wine-styles.com

KOV Pinot Noir Blending with Steve Pessagno

Earlier this month, our chapter of the Knight's of the Vine (KOV) held a wine blending and picnic. Steve Pessagno of Pessagno Wines led the 11 teams through the process of blending Pinot Noir. Each team had a bottle of Pessagno Pinot Noir 2002, Special Selection and a bottle of each of the 5 wines that went into that blend of wine. Many teams did very well, but our team got a perfect score, in other words we matched the Pessagno blend exactly. Our team was made up of Greg Byers, Mike Benner, Don and Joyce Sherer, Pat Landee, and Jud Grubbs. For this perfect score we were each awarded a magnum of Pessagno 1999 Central Avenue Vineyard Pinot Noir. Our many thanks to Steve Pessagno for making such a memorable day and to Kaye Benner for all of her planning.



Steve Pessagno, Greg Byers, Mike Benner, Don Sherer, Joyce Sherer, Pat Landee, Jud Grubbs, Terry McCleery (KOV Commander)

A Day At Pisoni Vineyards

Back in July our KOV group bused out to the Pisoni Vineyards and were hosted by Gary Pisoni and his sons, Jeff and Mark, who have joined the family operation. Jeff earned a B.S. in Enology at California State University, Fresno, and got hands-on experience at premium wineries before becoming the Pisoni Estate winemaker. Mark specialized in the business side, completing a B.S. in Agricultural Economics at the University of California, Davis, and then a Masters Degree in Farm Business Management at Cornell University. Grandmother Pisoni was also there helping and socializing with everyone.

Along with the 2001 Lucia Pinot Noir and the 2001 Pisoni Pinot Noir they served Grandmother Pisoni's Venison sausage. Absolutely delicious – best sausage I've ever had. See below for my ratings of these wonderful wines. The sausage and pinot noir was followed by a fabulous lunch in the caves to candlelight and music. After lunch, chocolate dipped strawberries accompanied dancing and cigars. As if that wasn't enough, many of us took a dip in the old swimming hole. Thank You Gary, Jeff, Mark and Grandmother for a fabulous day. Also, thanks to Jeri Critterton for arranging this day.



Gary Pisoni

I've just learned that the October 2003 issue of Food & Wine has named Gary Pisoni a wine renegade and one of the 125 things we love about wine.

Monterey County Pinot Noir's

| Winery | Year | Price | Rate | Description |
|--|------|-------|------|--|
| Morgan Winery, Double L Vineyard | 2000 | 42.00 | 98 | Dense ruby/garnet color with a spicy blueberry and toasty oak aromas. Medium bodied well-balanced wine with a long finish. |
| Arcadian, Pisoni Vineyard | 2000 | 75.00 | 98 | Dark intense blueberry, earthy aromas. Well-balanced velvety flavors and a long lovely finish. |
| Pessagno, San Benito County, Spring Grove Vineyard | 2000 | 25.00 | 98 | Raspberry/black cherry, vanilla and smoke aromas come together in this complex and elegant wine. Well-balanced with enough oak to age and a wonderful velvet flavor followed by a long finish. |
| Baywood Cellars, Reserve | 2000 | 28.00 | 97 | Medium intensity black raspberry aroma. Well balanced and full flavored with a long intense finish. |
| Pessagno, Santa Lucia Highlands, Central Avenue Vineyard | 2000 | 18.00 | 96 | Medium intensity raspberry/black cherry aromas. Well balanced with a long finish |
| Pessagno, Santa Lucia Highlands, Garys' Vineyard | 2000 | 55.00 | 96 | Medium intensity with black cherry and subtle smoke aromas. Well balanced with a velvety feel in the mouth and a long long aftertaste. |
| Bernardus, Bien Nacido Vineyard | 1999 | 46.00 | 95 | Dark intensity color with wonderful dark red fruit and earthy aromas and flavors. Beautifully balanced with a long finish. |
| Pisoni, Santa Lucia Highlands, Pisoni Vineyard | 2001 | 60.00 | 95 | Dense purple very Burgundian pinot noir with blueberry, earthy aromas. Well balanced with enough tannin to age well. A very long finish |
| Morgan Winery, Rosella's Vineyard | 2000 | 38.00 | 95 | Medium bodied purple color with black cherry and rose in the aroma. Well balanced velvety with a long finish. |
| Pelerin/Sheppard Wines | 2002 | 33.00 | 93 | Medium intensity with raspberry and cherry aromas and a silky feel in the mouth. |
| Jekel Vineyards, Sanctuary Estate | 2000 | 16.00 | 93 | Medium intensity with a garnet color. Raspberry, cherry and earthy aromas. Medium body and great balance and flavor followed by a long finish. |
| Paraiso Vineyards, West Terrace Vineyard, Reserve | 2000 | 32.00 | 93 | Medium intensity black raspberry aroma. Well balanced and full flavored with a long intense finish. |
| San Saba Vineyards | 1999 | 22.00 | 92 | Intense wine with black cherry and mushroom aromas. Medium body with fruit and spice in the mouth. |
| Calera, Mount Harlan, Jensen | 1999 | 50.00 | 92 | Red garnet color, with ripe, mature red plum, cherry, earth and a touch of limestone. It exhibits a firm core of tannins that gives it a tight, rich backbone, and the finish lingers, with subtle flavor nuances. |
| Chateau Christina, Franscioni Vineyard | 2000 | 29.00 | 92 | Medium intensity with a garnet color. Black currant, mushroom and earthy aromas. Medium body with good balance and a medium long finish. |

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| Calera, Mount Harlan, Jensen Vineyard | 1998 | 75.00 | 92 | Intense, complex, with blueberry, earthy, and mushroom aromas and flavors. |
| Arcadian, Santa Lucia Highlands, Sleepy Hollow | 2000 | 35.00 | 92 | Intense color with blueberry and black cherry aromas and a silky wonderful mouthful. |
| Scheid Vineyard, Riverview Vineyard | 2001 | 20.00 | 91 | Medium intensity with a lovely garnet color. Black currant, mushroom and earthy aromas. Beautifully balanced with good body and a long finish. |
| Arcadian, Monterey, Sleepy Hollow Vineyard | 1999 | | 91 | Intense lovely wine with blueberry aromas. Well balanced acids and tannins with a long finish. |
| Arcadian, Jill's Cuvee | 2000 | 45.00 | 91 | Dense with spicy dark red fruit aromas. Well balanced with enough oak accompanied by a long finish. |
| Arcadian, Monterey, Pisoni Vineyard | 1999 | 80.00 | 91 | Dense color with the Pisoni blueberries in the aroma. Well balanced acid and tannin. Should age well. |
| Lucia Vineyards & Winery, Santa Lucia Highlands, Gary's Vineyard | 2001 | 39.95 | 90 | Dense purple color with spicy blueberry flavors. Well-balanced tannins and acid with a very long finish. Should age well! |
| Morgan Winery, Garys' Vineyard | 2000 | 38.00 | 90 | Ruby/garnet color with raspberry, spice, mushroom and subtle oak. Nicely balanced with a long finish. |
| Calera, Mount Harlan, Reed | 1999 | 45.00 | 90 | Red fruit with chocolate earthy aromas. Soft and silky in the mouth with a long finish. |
| Robert Talbott Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Case | 1999 | 35.00 | 90 | Dark colors with the aromas of dark red fruits such as black cherry and blueberry with a long finish. |
| Arcadian, Garys' Vineyard | 2000 | 45.00 | 90 | Intense dark color with dark red fruits flavor and a silky taste in the mouth following with a long finish. |
| Pavona Wines | 2000 | 20.00 | 90 | Dense color with black cherry aromas and a long finish. |
| Miner Family Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Gary's Vineyard | 2000 | 50.00 | 90 | Intense with blackberry flavors. Well balanced but with the stuff to age a while. |
| Tantara Winery, Santa Lucia Highlands, Pisoni Vineyard | 2001 | 56.00 | 90 | Dense color with the aromas of black cherry, blueberry and plums. |
| Bernardus, Santa Barbara | 2000 | 30.00 | 90 | Intense dark color with blueberry and black currant aromas and a well-balanced taste with lovely vanilla oak and a very long finish. |
| Chalone Vineyards, Soledad, Estate | 2000 | 30.00 | 90 | Dark intense with black cherries and blackberries balanced with vanilla oak and a very long finish. |
| Chalone Vineyards, Soledad, Estate | 2001 | 30.00 | 90 | Dark intense wine with dark red fruit aromas. |
| Calera, Mount Harlan, Selleck Vineyard | 1999 | 55.00 | 89 | Big intense wine with aromas of black currant and black raspberry culminating in a long finish. |
| Testarossa Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands | 2000 | 45.00 | 89 | Intense spicy black cherry flavors accompanied by a long finish. |
| Kendall-Jackson | 2001 | 12.00 | 89 | Medium intensity ruby-garnet with black cherry flavors. Well-balanced with a nice aftertaste. |
| Testarossa Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Sleepy Hollow | 2001 | 50.00 | 89 | Medium intensity black fruit and spice with a subtle oak flavor. |

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| Boyer, Monterey | 1999 | 24.00 | 88 | Medium intensity with ruby/garnet color. Raspberry/cherry, spice, and toasty oak flavors. Velvety in mouth. |
| Calera, Mount Harlan, Mills Vineyard | 1999 | 40.00 | 89 | Deep intense color with red fruity aromas. |
| Testarossa Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Garys' Vineyard | 2000 | 45.00 | 88 | Medium density with spicy black cherry and earthy aromas. Silky taste with a long aftertaste. |
| Testarossa Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Pisoni Vineyard | 2000 | 55.00 | 88 | Raspberry and cherry flavors with a subtle oak followed by a long finish. |
| Testarossa Vineyards, Chalone, Michaud Vineyard | 2001 | 50.00 | 88 | Dark red fruits such as black cherry and blackberry with earthy notes and a long finish. |
| Testarossa Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Rosella's Vineyard | 2001 | 50.00 | 88 | Well balanced with red fruit flavors. |
| Calera, Central Coast | 2000 | 20.00 | 88 | Medium intensity with aromas of raspberries and a silky spicy taste. |
| Testarossa Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Cuvee Nictaire | 2000 | 68.00 | 87 | Intense wine with cherry aromas and a long lovely aftertaste. |
| Paraiso Vineyards | 2000 | 16.00 | 87 | Light and fruity. |
| David Bruce Winery, Central Coast | 2001 | 22.00 | 87 | Intense, ruby/garnet color. Well balanced with a big feel in the mouth and a very long finish. |
| Estancia Estates, Reserve | 1999 | 25.00 | 87 | Medium intensity with flavors of blackberry. |
| Calera, Mount Harlan Melange | 1997 | 30.00 | 87 | Medium intensity with aromas of raspberries with a silky taste and long finish. |
| J. Lohr | 2001 | 12.00 | 86 | |
| Calera, El Nino | 2001 | 12.50 | 86 | Lighter bodied pinot with a fresh raspberry aroma. |
| Anapamu Cellars, Monterey County | 2001 | 16.00 | 86 | Light bodied fruity wine with a lovely long finish. |
| McIntyre Vineyards | 2000 | 18.00 | 86 | Dense Ruby-garnet well-balanced wine with a long finish |
| Robert Talbott Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Logan | 1999 | 18.00 | 86 | Dark intense wine with black cheery and silky feel in the mouth. |
| Galante Vineyards & Winery | 2001 | 30.00 | 86 | Intense ruby colored with rich well-balanced taste and big tannins. Should age well. |
| Kendall-Jackson, Great Estates | 2000 | 28.00 | 85 | Light cherry-raspberry with mild tannins. |
| Arroyo Del Sol | 2000 | 25.00 | 85 | Light fruity wine with a nice aftertaste. |
| Kendall-Jackson, Great Estates | 1999 | 30.00 | 85 | Dense plum and blackberry and a smooth blending of fruit and oak. |
| Thomas Fogarty Winery | 1999 | 23.00 | 85 | |
| Jekel Vineyards | 2000 | 19.00 | 85 | Light and fruity |
| Clos LaChance | 2001 | 28.00 | 85 | Dark intense wine, very Santa Cruz Mountain characters. |
| Robert Talbott Vineyards, Santa Lucia Highlands, Kali-Hart | 2001 | 12.00 | 85 | Light bodied fruity wine with a silky feel in the mouth. |
| Estancia Estates | 2001 | 12.00 | 85 | Light and fruity |

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| Morgan Winery | 2000 | 22.00 | 85 | |
| Robert Mondavi, Santa Lucia Highlands, Private Selection | 2001 | 10.00 | 85 | Light bodied strawberry-raspberry with a good feel in the mouth. |
| Morgan Winery, Santa Lucia Highlands | 2001 | | 85 | Medium bodied, red cherry and strawberry with some mushroom characters. Well balanced with a nice aftertaste. |
| Bernardus, Arroyo Secco, Bien Nacido | 2000 | 30.00 | 85 | Light fruity wine |

Subsequent Newsletters will cover New Zealand, Oregon, Sonoma, Napa, Santa Barbara County, Burgundy and other Pinot Noir growing areas.

Patty's Pinot Closet Web site contains information on Pinot Noir such as newsletters, Pinot Noir culture, wine making, serving, regions and wineries, storing, wine events, restaurants with good wine lists, gifts, and glossary. To access Patty's Pinot Closet [Click Here](#)

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