



Oregon's wine industry is increasingly on the rise. What started about 20 years ago as barely a cottage industry has flourished into one of, if not THE, premier spots in the world to plant vines, build a winery and make wine. Winemakers are coming from afar to make Pinot noir. While at the grocery store it may seem a bit of a clutter in the Pinot section, the increased number of wineries making Pinot has upped the ante in terms of the quality of the wine substantially.

Already big names such as Domaine Drouhin, straight from the Burgundy region of France, and Beaux Freres, a winery in Newberg partially owned by the world's most influential (even more so than me), respected and loathed wine writer, have made their mark in the past few years.

While these wineries are producing some of the state's most sought after Pinot and certainly some of Oregon's more expensive wine (generally about \$30-\$37/bottle) there are other new wineries that are worth checking out as well. I've listed a few of my personal favorites.

Torii Mor Winery: Their first vintage was 1993 and they have been in the market place for about a year. Located in the building that used to house the fine but ill-fated Arteberry Vineyards, Torii Mor produces high quality Pinot noir, Pinot gris and Chardonnay. The Pinot noir is readily available and goes for about \$13/bottle which is an excellent deal for a full bodied, spicy Pinot. The winemaker is Patty Green who has worked in the Southern part of the state for years as a consultant and winemaker for the like of Girardt, Hillcrest and La Garza. Despite being somewhat new to the Pinot game she has managed to round up some older vineyards in the Dundee Hills and the quality of the wine reflects its pedigree. While the '93 wines are quite good (the Chardonnay scored in the top 10% of American Chardonnays reviewed by the Enthusiast) the '94s promise intense excellence. You can't miss the eye-catching label on the shelves and you shouldn't pass up the opportunity to taste wine from an up and coming winery.

Brick House Vineyards: This is a brand new winery that just this July released their first wine, a 1993 Pinot noir. The wine is simply outstanding (see the Recommended wines of the month). The vineyard is a certified organic vineyard. Lots of times "organic wine" means wine that is not so good. Not in this case. Cristom Vineyard's winemaker Steve Doerner (an excellent winemaker, you should check out his Cristom's Pinots, especially the 1992 Reserve) oversaw the production of this wine. It is not clear whether Brick House is a one wine winery or whether they will be releasing Pinot gris and Chardonnay in the future. The vineyard is owned by former CBS News correspondent Doug Tennell.

Westrey Winery: I am not as familiar with this winery and their wines as I am the other two, but I do know their first vintage (1993) of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is a good starting place. The Pinot is supple and lush, a trick not everyone has managed to pull off with the '93's, and the Chardonnay is crisp and clean. One of the two owners/winemakers is Judy Peterson-Nedry who has made wine for the likes of Chehalem, so I would expect more good wine from these folks in the years to come.

Archery Summit: Always save the big guys for last. This winery is owned by the California producer Pine Ridge. The long and short of it is that these folks have big bucks. Big bucks certainly helps in this capital intense business and while it doesn't guarantee good wine it sure as hell doesn't hurt. Archery Summit, located squarely in the Dundee Hills, is looking to break into the Drouhin, Beaux Freres market by producing big, intense, well-oaked wines (their signature style in California with Cabs and Merlots) that sell for \$25+. Parker has raved about the wine already so I will spare you. It is very good, and very well made. Look for it on the top shelf of your favourite wine shop.

Recommended Wines for August: The dog days of summer are upon us and while beer and ice tea may seem to be the staples during hot weather don't forget about wine. A good glass of ever so slightly chilled wine (even red) on a warm summer's eve can go down quite nicely.

Brick House Vineyards 1993 Pinot noir: A blockbuster wine for sure. Tons of ripe black cherry, and excellent spicy quality throughout and a hint of toast on the finish combine with a well balanced structure to produce one of the best Pinots of the '93 vintage! For a measly \$17 you can have a dynamite wine! Has stood out on its own and shined, up against big boys like Chehalem, Ponzi and had better overall flavors to it than Beaux Freres. Find it.

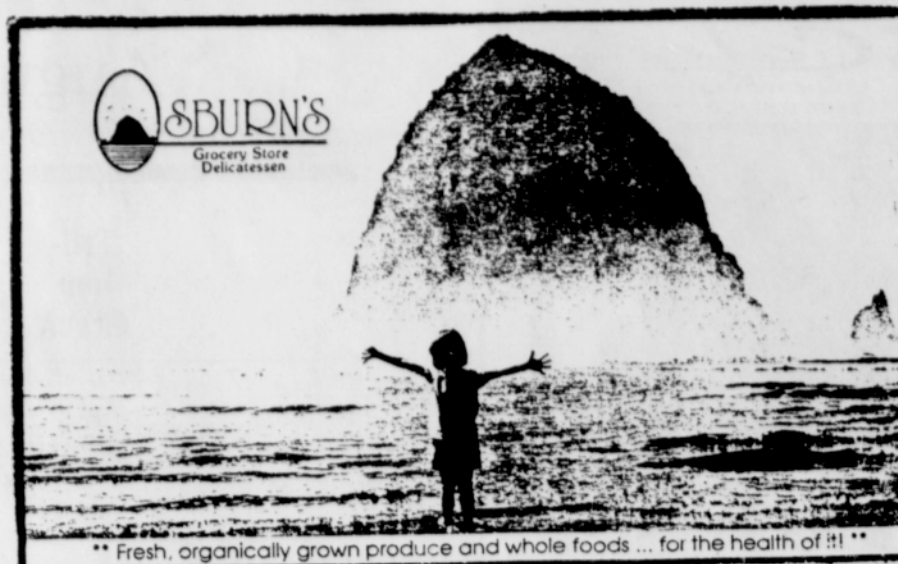
Secret House Vineyards 1993 Pinot Noir: Another excellent new release. Allegedly this



is in a warm sunset a cooling breeze a propitious wind at the surf's edge...and a lovely bottle of wine from that dinky little shop on the main drag in Cannon Beach operated by Laurel Hood.

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