

The Wine Advocate - Issue # 191

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“Willamette Valley 2008: It’s Pretty Darn Good.”

“My first visit to White Rose Estate was an eye opener. Owner Greg Sanders is in love with whole cluster Pinot Noir and 2008 was a perfect vintage to express his vision. Congratulations to Greg Sanders and his staff for taking full advantage of the great 2008 vintage. “

94+ points 2008 Dragon’s Bluff- White Rose Vineyard “Hand-Select” Pinot Noir

The 2008 Pinot Noir Dragon’s Bluff Hand Select was made with 50% whole clusters from a selection made in the vineyard. Exceptionally complex aromatically with an array of floral, spice, and black fruit aromas, on the palate it is mouth-filling, dense, yet remarkably elegant. Give this concentrated, lengthy Pinot another 5-6 years of cellaring and drink it through 2023, although that could be a conservative estimate.

94+ points 2008 White Rose Estate- White Rose Vineyard “Whole Cluster” Pinot Noir

The 2008 Pinot Noir Dragon’s Bluff was sourced from the estate White Rose Vineyard and fermented with 100% whole clusters. The ideal conditions prevailing in 2008 allowed the stems to ripen fully yielding a wine with brooding black fruit aromas, sandalwood, Asian spices, incense, underbrush, black cherry, and plum. Dense and full-flavored on the palate but light on its feet, this impressive, masculine-styled Pinot Noir may well evolve for 5-6 years and see its 20th birthday.

93 points 2008 White Rose Estate- White Rose Vineyard “Sovarae” Pinot Noir

The 2008 Pinot Noir Savarae is sourced from two specific White Rose Vineyard blocks. Fragrant, remarkably expressive, and dense, the focus here is on succulent black fruits supported by a silky texture and lively acidity leading to a velvety finish. It, too, will benefit from 3-4 years of additional cellaring.

93 points 2008 White Rose Estate- White Rose Vineyard Pinot Noir

The 2008 Pinot Noir White Rose Vineyard proffers a multi-dimensional nose of sandalwood, Asian spices, incense, black cherry, and black raspberry that leaps from the glass. Rich, layered, and already complex, this spicy offering has superb volume and concentration, impeccable balance, and a lengthy, fruit-filled finish. It merits 3-4 years of additional bottle age and will have a drinking window extending from 2013 to 2023.

91 points 2008 White Rose Estate- Appellation Series “Dundee Hills” Pinot Noir

The 2008 Pinot Noir Appellation Series Dundee Hills offers a more fragrant, complex bouquet with notes of smoke, cinnamon, incense, cherry, and raspberry. Made in a racy, elegant style with plenty of succulent red fruit flavors, lively acidity, and precision, it has the balance and structure to unwind for several more years. It will deliver prime drinking from 2013 to 2020.

88 points 2008 White Rose Estate- Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

The collection begins with the 2008 Pinot Noir Willamette Valley, a blend of four vineyards. It gives up a pleasing perfume of cedar, rose petal, spice box, cherry, and raspberry leading to a dense, savory, well-balanced wine with excellent volume and enough ripe tannin to evolve for 1-2 years. It can be enjoyed now through 2018.