



**“This tasting order—Pinot, Merlot, Cab, then Pinot Grigio—is a great plan. Sip a little white after red, and you avoid purple teeth and wine fatigue.”**

—LESLIE SBROCCO, AUTHOR, *WINE FOR WOMEN*; KQED HOST, *CHECK, PLEASE!*

# TOP REDS OVER \$40

We all know that some whopping wine prices are based on reputation and scarcity. In a tasting like ours—blind to price—the true cream rises to the top. These reds are pricey but worth it.

Aratas 2010 Petite Sirah (Napa Valley; \$45)  
 Betz Family 2011 “Besoleil” (Columbia Valley; \$45)  
 Dry Creek Vineyard 2011 “The Mariner” Meritage (Dry Creek Valley; \$45)  
 Gamache 2010 Vineyard Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley; \$55)  
 Halter Ranch 2011 Estate Reserve “Ancestor” (Paso Robles; \$50)  
 Hendry 2009 Hendry Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley; \$55)  
 Huge Bear 2010 “Ursa Gigantes” (Sonoma County; \$45)  
 Meadowlark 2007 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Barbara County; \$50)  
 Mi Sueño 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley; \$70)

Obsidian Ridge 2010 Obsidian Ridge Vineyard “Half Mile” (Red Hills, Lake County; \$60)  
 Palmeri 2011 “High Elevation” Van Ness Vineyard Syrah (Alexander Valley; \$42)  
 Robert Mondavi 2010 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville, Napa Valley; \$55)  
 Silverado Vineyards 2010 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley; \$58)  
 St. Francis 2011 “Rockpile Red” (Sonoma County; \$50)  
 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2012 Bernau Block Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley; \$55)  
 William Hill 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley; \$40)



BACK IN THE GROOVE

## PINOT NOIR REBOUNDS



Remember how the movie *Sideways* put Pinot on the map 10 years ago? Mediocre versions flooded the market to satisfy demand. Now, it seems we’re recovering. This year’s class of Pinots won a higher percentage of Gold Medals than any other category.

Acacia 2012 Pinot Noir (Carneros; \$28)  
 Black Stallion 2012 Pinot Noir (Los Carneros; \$28)  
 DeLoach 2012 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley; \$24)  
 Dutton-Goldfield 2012 Dutton Ranch, Emerald Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley; \$58)  
 Francis Ford Coppola 2012 Director’s Cut Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley, Sonoma County; \$27)  
 Huge Bear 2012 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley; \$45)  
 MacMurray Ranch 2012 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands; \$35)  
 Patz & Hall 2012 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast; \$46)  
 Roblar 2012 Gold Collection Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills; \$50)  
 Schug 2012 Pinot Noir (Carneros; \$30)  
 Sonoma-Cutrer 2012 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley, Sonoma County; \$34)  
 Sonoma Hills 2012 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley; \$23)  
 Stemmler 2012 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros; \$44)  
 Stephen Ross 2012 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands; \$25)  
 Taft Street 2012 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley; \$24)  
 Talley 2012 Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley; \$36)