

SEBASTIANI

2013 Sonoma County Pinot Noir

\$19

Distinctive for its earthy, mineral aromas, which lead to ripe red fruits, structured tannins and medium-full-body. It's a juicy wine at a great price in the ever-more-pricy Sonoma Pinot Noir field. (LM)

SIDURI

2013 Keefer Ranch Vineyard Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

\$52

From a rock-star vineyard site, this Pinot is exuberant in raspberry, cherry and cocoa, accented in sweet oak. Structured acidity and toned-down tannins maintain a balance of approachability, though the wine should age beautifully for another 10 years. (VB)

SOJOURN CELLARS

2013 Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

\$59

Planted on a steep, rocky hillside in the chilly Petaluma Gap, Gap's Crown is known for producing intense, firmly structured Pinot Noir. Sojourn's bottling is all that, compact yet brimming with dark cherry and blueberry fruit, barrel spice and forest-after-a-rain character. Built to improve with cellaring. (LM)

SONOMA-CUTRER

2013 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

\$37

This Chardonnay specialist has branched out to Pinot Noir under winemaker Mick Schroeder, and among its Pinot bottlings, this one is the highlight: fresh, crisp cherry, raspberry and wild strawberry fruit, spice, excellent structure and persistent on the finish. (LM)

ST. FRANCIS WINERY

2013 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

\$40

Lavish plum, cherry and distinctive blood orange flavors meld with savory clove and earthiness in this concentrated, plush wine with silky tannins. (LM)

TRICYCLE WINE PARTNERS

2013 Poseidon Vineyard Estate Carneros Pinot Noir

\$32

Seamless, supple and with big fruit flavors, it's a complex mix of floral, red and black cherry, cola and spice elements. The finish is long and crisp. (LM)

Top 100 Wines

Meet & Greet

Theresa Heredia

Gary Farrell Vineyards & Winery

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

SHE WOULD HAVE been a chemistry professor, if wine hadn't gotten in the way.

Theresa Heredia, winemaker at Gary Farrell Vineyards & Winery, earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, was a scientist focused on cancer-related peptide research, and a Ph.D. candidate in chemistry at UC Davis. But her studies and enology-student colleagues led her to appreciate not only the science of wine, but the pleasures of drinking it. She switched course to winemaking studies.

After working in Burgundy, France, at Domaine de Montille, Heredia was hired as enologist at Saintsbury winery in Carneros, then as a winemaker at Joseph Phelps Vineyards in St. Helena. Phelps sent her to Freestone to launch Freestone Vineyards on the Sonoma Coast, and the Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs she made there were remark-

able — so much so that Gary Farrell management snapped her up in spring 2012 as its winemaker.

Heredia's preference for elegant, crisp, mouthwatering wines — which include Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and a lovely rosé of Pinot Noir — match the winery's house style, established by founder Gary Farrell in 1982. He sold the company in 2004, and under current owner The Vincraft Group, Heredia has been given the ability to purchase grapes from some of Russian River Valley's most respected vineyards, among them Rochioli, Rochioli-Allen, Hallberg and Westside Farms. A Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc from Heredia made our Top 100, though several other of her wines would be equal replacements. The wines from this producer have never been better.

— LM

