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# WINE ENTHUSIAST<sup>®</sup>

## MAGAZINE

MAY 2012

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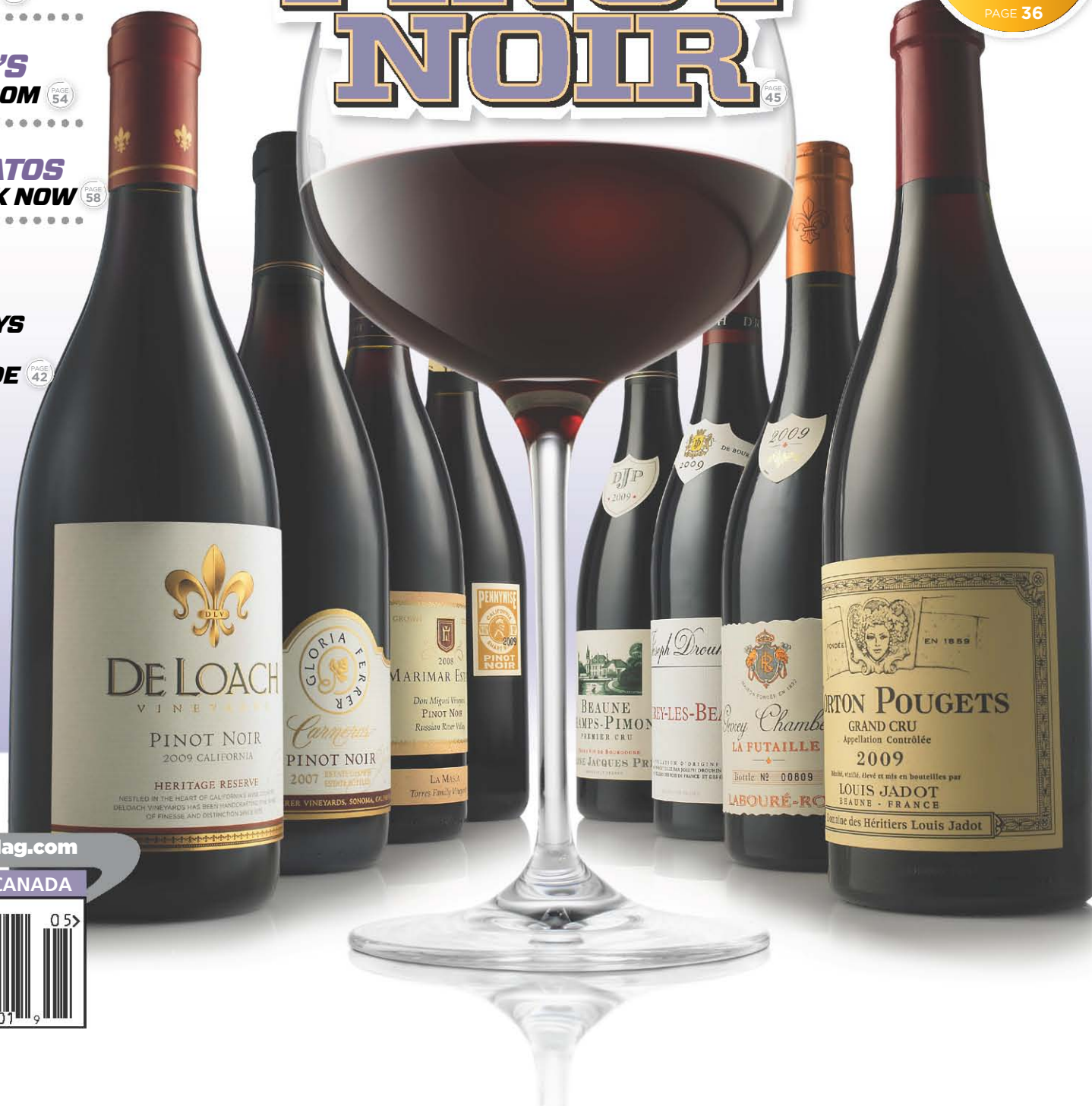
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# PINOT NOIR

THE  
REFRESHING  
**WILD  
FOREST**  
COCKTAIL

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# California

## Pinot Noirs for Any Budget

### \$15 or less

**90** Pennywise 2009 Pinot Noir (California). Surprisingly sophisticated for a Pinot Noir at this price. It's dry, light in the mouth and elegantly structured, with a nice bite of acids and tannins. The flavors are delicate in sour cherries, sweet tomato jam and dusty spices. **Best Buy.**  
abv: 14% Price: \$12

**88** De Loach 2009 Heritage Reserve Pinot Noir (California).  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

### \$16-\$25

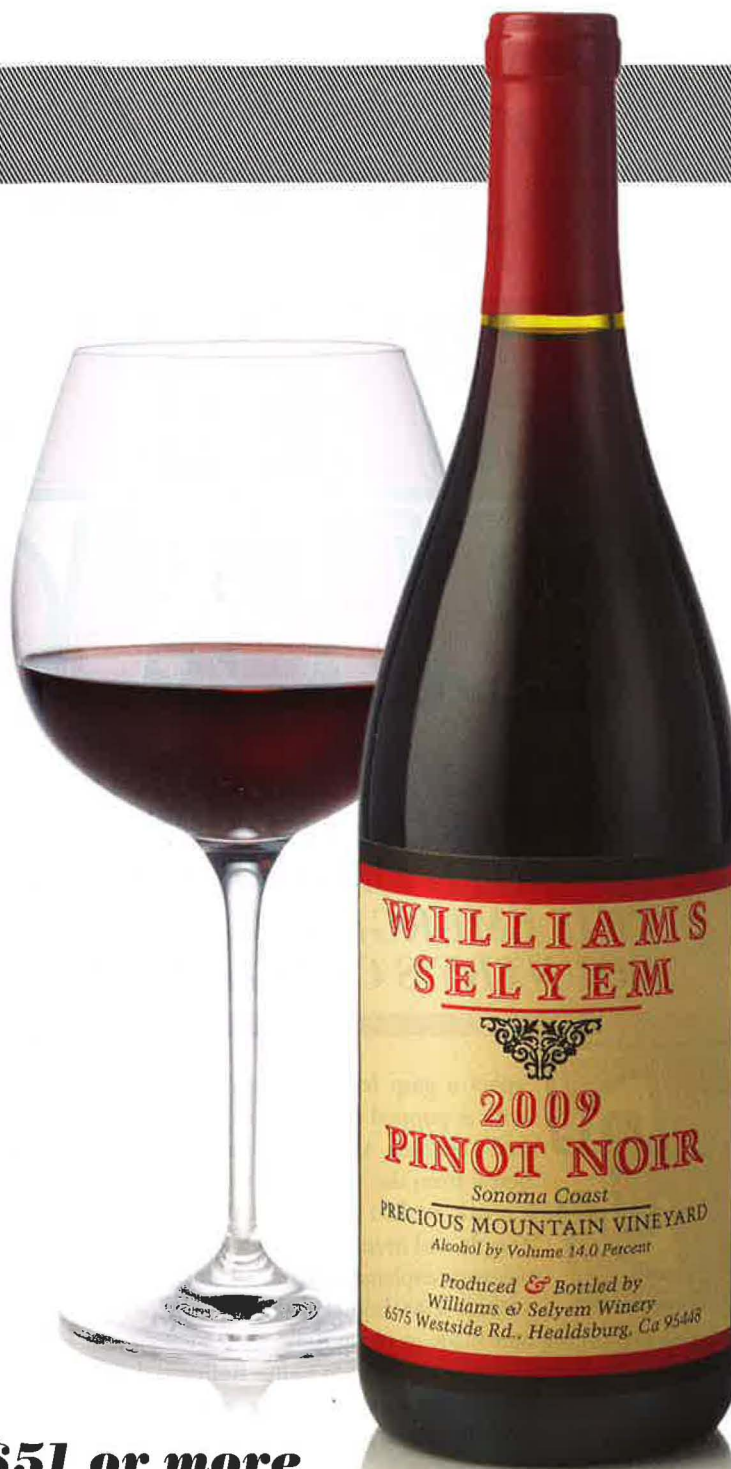
**94** Gloria Ferrer 2007 Pinot Noir (Carneros). The first of Gloria's 2007 Pinots to be released, and a promising allure to their future block bottlings. The wine is, in a word, superb. It has ripe raspberry, cherry and blackberry fruit, but also a wonderful earthiness of mushrooms, and the tannin-acid balance is near perfect. A gorgeous young wine to decant and enjoy now.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$22

**92** Cambria 2009 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$25

### \$26-\$50

**96** Marimar Estate 2008 La Masía Don Miguel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Absolutely stunning, a testament to the vintage, the terroir and to the winemaker's impeccable hand. It's delicious beyond description, offering wave after wave of cherry pie, blackberry confit, red currant, persimmon and cola flavors, finished with exciting spices. Already throwing sediment, it's so balanced in acids and tannins that it's gorgeous now, but should develop effortlessly over the next six years at the very least.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$39

**95** Longoria 2009 Fe Ciega Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$48



### \$51 or more

**99** Williams Selyem 2009 Precious Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A stupendous Pinot Noir, showing how beautifully this vineyard performs in the remote Sonoma Coast above Fort Ross. Williams Selyem's last few vintages of Precious Mountain have been extraordinary, but this 2009 tops them all. The wine is as light as a feather in the mouth, modest in alcohol and delicately feminine, like pure satin. However, few Pinot Noirs in the world achieve this level of concentration. Wild raspberries and cherries, cola, sleek minerals, dusty baking spices and smoky oak combine for flavors that are utterly delicious. After all that, it possesses an indefinable attribute of fascination. Will age well for a long time, if you can keep your hands off it. Now-2021.  
abv: 14% Price: \$94

**98** Merry Edwards 2009 Klopp Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$57