

MARION, 1992 SONOMA COUNTY, \$72 (\$9)

Soft, very ripe, and somewhat rugged in style, with flavors reminiscent of strawberry jam. Fine value. [1994-1995] (707) 523-3655

★★★★

**EL MOLINO, 1990 NAPA COUNTY, \$260 (\$32.50)**

Supple in texture and both fruity (raspberry, cherry) and toasty in flavor, with medium full body, good balance, and a medium long finish. Best version yet from this winery. Limited availability. [1994-1995] (707) 963-3632

★★★★

PINOT NOIR — Medium Priced:
\$73-\$120/case (\$9.10-\$15/btl. full retail)

ELK COVE VINEYARDS, 1992 WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON, \$100 (\$12.50)

Ripe, soft, and medium bodied; a delicious Pinot Noir, with floral, raspberry-like flavors, moderate depth, and a long, smooth finish. Fine value. [1994-1995] (503) 985-7760

★★★★

FETZER, 1992 BARREL SELECT, NORTH COAST, \$104 (\$13)

Softly textured, medium in body, and somewhat toasty; a wine with crisp underlying acidity and distinctive varietal flavors (cherry, cranberry, violet). Perhaps this winery's best-ever Pinot Noir, signalling another serious entrant into the Pinot Noir sweepstakes. Great value. [1994-1995] (510) 653-7400 [label pg. 21]

★★★★+

**VILLA MT. EDEN, 1991 GRAND RESERVE, CARNEROS, \$120 (\$15)**

Toasty, supple, and slightly rugged in style; has good length and very complex flavors (toasty, vanilla, bay leaf, berry, ginger). Good value. [1994-1995] (707) 944-2414

★★★★

PINOT NOIR — High Priced:
\$121-\$200/case (\$15.10-\$25/btl. full retail)

BYRON, 1991 RESERVE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, \$188 (\$23.50)

Supple in texture, complex and moderately toasty in style, and long on the palate; a medium rich, well balanced wine, with prominent raspberry, violet, and vanilla flavors. Excellent. [1995-1996] (805) 937-7288

★★★★+

MERIDIAN, 1991 RESERVE,

61% SANTA BARBARA-39% SAN LUIS OBISPO, \$160 (\$20)
FIRST RELEASE. Fleshy in texture and very ripe and complex in flavor; virtually Burgundian (in its range and breadth). It has intensely fruity and floral flavors, with overtones of vanilla, toast, and humus. Very limited availability. [1994-1995] (805) 237-6000

★★★★+

ST. GREGORY, 1991 MENDOCINO, \$128 (\$16)

An unusually aromatic, medium weight Pinot Noir with extremely distinctive, ripe raspberry character, with overtones of black cherry and violets. Has moderate depth and a long, persistent finish. Limited availability. [1994-1995] (707) 463-1532

★★★★+

**WILD HORSE, 1992 CENTRAL COAST, \$136 (\$17)**

Supple, ripely flavored, and very complex in style, with cranberry, raspberry, and toasted oak flavors, and a long, crisp finish. Excellent quality and value. [1994-1995] (805) 434-2541

★★★★



PINOT NOIR — Expensive:
\$201/case & Up (\$25.10/btl. & Up full retail)

DOMAINE DROUHIN, 1992 WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON, \$122/6 btl. (\$30.50)

Ripe and mouthfilling in style; aromatic and complex in flavor (raspberry, clove, ginger), long and well balanced on the palate. Shows less wood than previous releases, to its credit. Limited availability. [1994-1996] (503) 864-2700

★★★★+

KENDALL-JACKSON, 1991 GRAND RESERVE, CALIFORNIA, \$240 (\$30)

Complex and ripe in flavor (rose petal, bay leaf, vanilla, ginger, toast) and full in body, with good depth and a rugged, long finish. Limited availability. [1994-1995] (707) 263-9333

★★★★+

LA BOHEME VINEYARD, 1991 WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON, \$224 (\$28)

Aromatic and finely flavored (raspberry, ginger, clove), crisp, and slightly lean on the palate, with a lightly tannic, persistent finish. Fine quality. Limited availability. From Elk Cove Vineyards. [1994-1996] (503) 985-7760

★★★★

PONZI VINEYARDS, 1991 RESERVE, WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON, \$224 (\$28)

Fleshy, toasty/smokey and ripe in flavor (plum, berry); a delicious Pinot Noir leaning to the woody style, but integrates that character well. Limited availability. [1994-1995] (503) 628-1227

★★★★

**SAINTSBURY, 1991 RESERVE, CARNEROS, \$240 (\$30)**

Full bodied and complex (ginger, strawberry jam), with supple texture, and a lightly oaky, long finish. Limited availability. [1994-1996] (707) 252-0592

★★★★

SYRAH - 1 Price Category**COLUMBIA, 1990 RED WILLOW VINEYARD, YAKIMA VALLEY, \$160 (\$20)**

Powerful and tannic in style, with rich, spicy-fruity flavors, and a tannic, long finish. Not as big as the '89, but equally suited to additional aging. [1995-2000] (206) 488-2776

★★★★+

McDOWELL, 1992 BISTRO SYRAH, MENDOCINO, \$88 (\$11)

Grapey and spicy in flavor, medium in body, and lightly tannic; very "bistro-like" in style. Good value. [1994-1995] (707) 744-1053

★★★★+

**PRESTON VINEYARDS, 1991 DRY CREEK VALLEY, \$160 (\$20)**

Fleshy, full bodied, and slightly rugged in style, with ripe berry and tar-like flavors. Excellent. Limited availability. [1995-1999] (707) 433-3372

★★★★

RAMSAY, 1991 NAPA VALLEY, \$96 (\$12)

Soft and medium full in style, with berry jam (raspberry) and vanilla flavors; very long, smooth finish. Excellent. Limited availability. From Kent Rasmussen. [1994-1995] (707) 252-4224

★★★★

**THE OJAI VINEYARD, 1991 CALIFORNIA, \$136 (\$17)**

Classic Syrah, in aroma and flavor: pepper, roasted grain, violets, lightly herbal. Soft and well balanced, with mild tannins. Excellent value. Limited availability. [1994-1995] (805) 649-1674

★★★★+

**FRUCHARD, 1992 CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY, \$144 (\$18)**

FIRST RELEASE. A stunning Syrah, which displays the classic character of northern Rhone reds (Cote Rotie) more so than any other Syrah we've tasted outside France. It is medium full in body, with intense peppery, berry-like flavors, and overtones of roasted grain and toast. Exceptional. Very limited availability. [1994-1995] (707) 252-8864 [label pg. 21]

★★★★+

Only recommended wines are included here; most with comments.