

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Henri de Villamont 2022 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Prestige

Many people think of Pinot Noir as a Summer red, but Fall is when it speak to me, thus Henri de Villamont 2022 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Prestige. I like Henri de Villamont because they do things traditionally and value quality over quantity, reducing their production from 20 million bottles in 2004 to only 350,000 per year today, so you know care and attention goes into each bottling. If I'm reaching for a Pinot Noir, I'm going Burgundy all the way, and this is 100% Burgundy fruit sourced from the Côte d'Or and Côte Chalonnaise. It's aged 40% in French oak barrels and 60% in stainless steel vats to preserve fresh fruit character. "A silky, aromatic Pinot Noir with red berry fruit, soft spice, floral notes and gentle earthiness. Smooth tannins and vibrant acidity make it approachable and refined." Lightly woody, soft cinnamon. Everything you want a Pinot Noir to be, and only \$27.99 which is quite the deal for Burgundy.

WINE PICK

Opaque 2018 Petit Verdot

This one is another bargain that I hunted down, the Opaque 2018 Petit Verdot out of Paso Robles, CA. Not many producers make a single-varietal Petit Verdot as it's usually used as a blending grape to add color and body to wines that need a little oomph. On it's own, it's truly unique and a big, bold, rich red wine, and it carries a punch at almost 15% ABV. "Hearty aromas of black currant, creamy caramel and light lavender invite the nose into this bottling. It lands with a thick presence on the full-bodied palate, where the rich fruit and cocoa flavors are balanced by firm tannins and a slightly bitter edge." I recommend letting this one breathe for about 20 minutes before drinking, but once you do, it's worth the wait. It's a 2019 but still has plenty of room to age. Normally around \$40, it's now \$18.99.