

The PICKS

FEATURE WINE

Domaine Drouhin 2022 Rose Rock Pinot Noir

This week's feature is rather simple... we were fortunate enough to pick up a couple cases of the #6 wine from Wine Spectator's Top 100 wines of 2024, the Rose Rock 2022 Eola-Amity Hills Pinot Noir. Rose Rock in one form or another has long been considered a standout Pinot Noir; seeing that this wine is part of the iconic Drouhin Family of wines gives it a pedigree that's beyond reproach. Domaine Drouhin is the Oregon outpost of Burgundy's Maison Joseph Drouhin. While most of the estate vineyards are in the Dundee Hills, Roserock Vineyard in Eola-Amity Hills has become increasingly key to the winery's success since the Drouhins purchased the 122-acre vineyard in 2013. Véronique Boss-Drouhin, who oversees winemaking operations in both Burgundy and Oregon, blended a selection from the vineyard's 35 individual blocks, which she fermented separately. Eola-Amity Pinot Noirs are known for their powerful structure, but Boss-Drouhin strives to accentuate the house's graceful style. This 2022 aged in French oak barrels (20 percent of which were new) for 10 months. Tasting notes describe this wine as, "Supple and elegantly structured, with detailed raspberry and cherry flavors accented by rose petal, brown baking spices and orange peel as this glides toward polished tannins." All I know is 15,100 cases of this 94pt wine were produced and we got two of them..

WINE PICK

Vouvray x2

This next wine has been my pick for many, many years... Chenin Blanc from the village of Vouvray in the Loire Valley of France. This area produces superb, crisp white wines with just enough acid and a tiny hint of nectar that makes this the best white wine to accompany everything on your Thanksgiving table, plus it has the characteristics that please both a dry white wine drinker and a sweet white wine drinker. Yeah, that's right, both Aunt Grace and your mother-in-law can share the same bottle of white at the table. Don't get me wrong, I'll be drinking a bit of this wonderful white, as well. We always have this wine case stacked for the holidays, but when ordering last week, it came through as out of stock. Today, however, a true Thanksgiving miracle occurred and two cases arrived. Being the responsible caretaker that I am, I had already ordered two cases from another distributor to keep everyone's holiday in tact. So now we have two! So that story told... this year I've chosen both the 2022 Barton and Guestier and 2021 Chateau Moncontour Vouvray as my picks for Thanksgiving week. The B&G selling for \$15.99 is the bargain, while the Moncontour priced at \$21.99 is still a great price point for such a fine wine. These wines show more of a "ripeness" than overt sweetness, with lovely flavors of ripe apples and honeyed floral notes with an acidity that helps make this an excellent pairing for your holiday table.