

## eRobertParker.com - Mark Squires' Bulletin Board 12-14-2006

### #1 FORT ROSS PINOT NOIR, Fort Ross Vineyard, Sonoma Coast 2003 STEVEN RIGISICH: FOUNDER OF PINOT DAYS



#### My favorite California Pinots from 2006

Below are the list of my 25 favorite current release Ca. pinots from 2006 as well as a few honorable mentions I had to include. I have excluded the 2005 vintage. I drink more RRV than any other appellation and this year you will find fewer from the region than in past lists. It was a tough year for RRV.

#### 1. Fort Ross, Fort Ross Vineyard Sonoma Coast 2003

- Made by Ed Kurtzman, not Fred Scherrer. The beautiful thing about this wine is it is a natural beauty. Imagine a party where 30 models show up and turn your head, only to discover the most attractive woman in the room is the fit tennis player who is standing in the corner with no make-up and jeans; this wine is a real sleeper, with great but understated attractiveness. We have opened many of these over the past 4 months and each time we like it. When we place it next to a bottle of a more acclaimed wine, we prefer the Fort Ross. It is not glamorous and will not turn your head, but it is a great wine. It has an Ed K. style to it- pure, focused, built on a bedrock of firm acids and profound fruits. But this is best because of its balance and versatility. I cannot imagine this wine becoming more seamless than it already is. In addition, you can have this any time after opening, with any food and under any circumstance. We have had it on the second day and it is better (and different), we have had it on the third day and it is different and fascinating. Now the challenge will be to keep my hands off it so that it can age a bit more. Then again, why....

2. Williams Selyem Westside Road Neighbors Russian River Valley 2004

3. Tantara Silacci Vineyard Santa Lucia Highlands 2004

4. Hartford Court Seascape Vineyard Sonoma Coast 2004

5. Joseph Swan Trenton Estate Russian River Valley 2003

6. Stephen Ross Bien Nacido Vineyard Santa Maria Valley 2004

7. Rhys Home Vineyard Santa Cruz Mountain 2004

8. Castalia Rochioli Vineyard Russian River Valley 2004

9. Toulouse Estate Anderson Valley 2003

10. Kosta Browne Sonoma Coast 2004

11. Williams Selyem Weir Vineyard Anderson Valley 2004

12. Hitching Post Bien Nacido Vineyard Santa Maria Valley 2004

13. Dehlinger Estate Russian River Valley 2003

14. Radio Coteau Alberigi Vineyard Russian River Valley 2004

15. Arcadian Santa Maria Valley 2003

16. Miner Family Rosella's Vineyard Santa Lucia Highlands 2004

17. Eric Kent Stilling Vineyard Russian River Valley 2004

18. Tantara Bien Nacido Vineyard Santa Maria Valley 2004

19. Eno "The Gifted One" Santa Lucia Highlands 2004

20. MacPhail Goodin Vineyard Sonoma Coast 2004

21. Arista Mononi Vineyard Russian River Valley 2004

22. Windy Oaks Estate Cuvée Santa Cruz Mountain 2004

23. Rivers Marie Summa Vineyard Young Vine Sonoma Coast 2004

24. Salinia Keefer Ranch Green Valley 2004

25. Ampelos Estate Vineyard Santa Rita Hills 2004

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