

Forbes

20 Of The Best Cool Climate Pinot Noirs To Try Now

The best pinot noirs are the ones grown in cool climates—they tend towards elegant and refined flavor profiles with deep complexity and freshness. Here are 20 great examples of pinot to try now:

People love pinot noir for its elegance and soft fruits but the range of quality and taste can be daunting—as winemaker for Black Kite Cellars Jeff Gaffner likes to say, “Pinot is the great amplifier.” Indeed, it is a grape that does a marvelous job of reflecting its environment—for better or worse. When grown in a warmer climate, the wines tend toward more cola-like qualities. When things are chilly and challenging the wines take on different characteristics explains Gaffner, “cool sites naturally restrain the vines, acting as a governor on the vine which creates a more concentrated grape.” These are pinot noir wines that lead with depth and minerality, they generally have a savory, mouth-watering edge and are well-suited to aging—but make no mistake they are entirely enjoyable now and worth seeking out. Below are some of my best cool climate sips of 2024—great for gift giving or treating yourself.

Ponzi Laurelwood Pinot Noir Avellana Chehalem Mountains, OR, 2021: The estate vineyards that go into this wine sit at 300 -600 feet in elevation. The balance of sun and cool evenings delivers a wine of freshness and complexity with notes of raspberry and black cherry and intriguing spice. \$110