

Wine & Spirits

The Little Nell, Bazaar
 Iron Gate, Gjelina, Aviary
 Nopa, Unkittled, Soto
 L'Enfer, Spago, The Modern
 Republic, Spiaggia
 Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House
 Wild Fire, YANGMINS, BKA
 THE TRUFFLE TABLE, selden Standard, Tina's
 Farallon, Bouchoir, Va
 L'Espalier, The Nomad
 Jean-Georges
 Le Bernardin
 AUTRE MONDE, 100
 Delfina, A Cote, ABSINTHE
 Michael's Genuine
 The American Restaurant
 RACINES, Lindey's
 NECTAR
 Chops Lobster Bar
 Ai Fiori, Pearl
 GRAFT STEAK

Frasca, LUSCA
 OCSINE, TAXIM
 Brickill Grill, DANIEL, A&Q
 Republique, LINCOLN
 Underbelly, Hugo's, A VOCE, BARI
 Bar Jamon, Cape Sea Grille
 Orchids, Pucci, Gary Danko
 N. ESTRELLA, Amadeo, Sepia
 Gramercy Tavern
 FEARRINGTON HOUSE
 Castagna, SERIE
 CHEZ PANISSE
 The Herbfarm, Salm
 GLENELLEN STAR
 FUKS, BINKLEY'S RESTAURANT
 BARRINGTON'S, EVOO
 Oak Room, Victory 44
 Picasso, Lotus of Siam, BARU
 LE PARTISAN
 Lacroix, Nick's Italian Cafe

Top
 50
 Wines
 at America's Best
 Restaurants

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PINOT NOIR

"Pinot noir continues to be the hottest variety," says Arthur Hon at *Sepia* in Chicago, reflecting our poll data as well. After cabernet snuck ahead last year, pinot noir has regained its position as the most popular varietal wine in America's top restaurants. This year its share of respondents' top-selling wines crept up by a tenth of a percentage point, to 14.7 percent, while cabernet's share fell by 2.8 percent.

The style of restaurant doesn't really matter, according to Ryan Fletter of *Barolo Grill* in Denver. "It really just stands on its own. I find that for most guests ordering a glass of pinot noir, it tees up the night, and then they decide to just drink a bottle of it. It's not too light and not too heavy; it's hard to compete with that category."

For the most part, when people drink "pinot," they are drinking US pinot: While Burgundy is in demand, most bottlings from individual producers are too scarce to accumulate significant mentions in the

poll. Instead, Merry Edwards, the Sonoma Coast and Russian River stalwart, leads an impressive list of US producers. She's joined by several other Russian River producers—Emeritus, Gary Farrell, La Crema and Thomas George—in the Top 20.

This year, California brands placed evenly with wineries from Oregon. It's one of the Willamette's strongest ever showings, with Cristom leading the pack. "I think people are looking at Burgundy and California and Oregon, and thinking, what will I get for my money?" says Maximilian Kast at *Fearrington House Inn* in Pittsboro, North Carolina. "If you spend \$80 on a bottle, you'll get better quality in Willamette than in a village-level Burgundy, particularly for wines that are drinking younger, between the 2010 and 2013 vintages. There is an earthiness and subtlety that you get, like in Burgundy, but also more fruit. Willamette is the area right now."



"Even my mother thinks that there's not a bad pinot."

—Dominique Henderson,
Rich Table, San Francisco

MOST POPULAR PINOT NOIRS

Rank	Brand	Bottling	Avg. Price
1	Merry Edwards	Russian River Valley	\$99
		Sonoma Coast	\$85
2	Cristom	Willamette Valley Mt. Jefferson Cuvée	\$75
		Willamette Valley Jessie's	\$115
		Willamette Valley Sommer's Reserve	\$95
3	La Crema	Sonoma Coast	\$53
		Monterey	\$35
		Sonoma County	\$56
4	Mark West	California	\$36
5	Soter	Willamette Valley	\$81
		Willamette Valley Oregon North Valley	\$78
6	Flowers	Sonoma Coast	\$98
7	Ken Wright Cellars	Willamette Valley	\$64
8	Melomi	California	\$49
9	Belle Pente	Willamette Valley Murto Reserve	\$83
		Willamette Valley	\$73
10	Belle Glos	Sonoma County	\$75
		Santa Lucia Highlands Las Alturas Vineyard	\$74
11	Emeritus	Russian River Valley Halberg Ranch	\$83
12	Copain	Anderson Valley Tous Ensemble	\$78
		Anderson Valley Les Voisins	\$60
13	Maison L'Envoyé	Willamette Valley Two Messengers	\$59
14	Thomas George	Russian River Valley	\$68
		Russian River Valley Cresta Ridge	\$80
15	Stoller	Dundee Hills JV Estate	\$54
16	Patricia Green Cellars	Chehalem Mountains Lia's Vineyard	\$48
		Willamette Valley Freedom Hill	\$78
17	St. Innocent	Willamette Valley Villages Cuvée	\$58
		Willamette Valley Momtazi	\$75

18	Gary Farrell	Russian River Valley	\$86
19	Torii Mor	Willamette Valley	\$56
20	Yamhill Valley Vineyards	McMinnville	\$58
21	Arterberry Maresh	Willamette Valley	\$32
		Dundee Hills	\$48
22	Mouton Noir	Willamette Valley OPP	\$67
23	MacMurray Ranch	Russian River Valley	\$58
		Sonoma Coast	\$52
24	Erath	Oregon	\$38
		Willamette Valley Estate Collection	\$70
25	Littorai	Sonoma Coast	\$98
		Anderson Valley Les Larmes	\$145
26	Crowley	Willamette Valley	\$53
		Willamette Valley Entre Nous	\$60
27	Angela	Yamhill-Carlton	\$78
28	Failla	Sonoma Coast	\$59
		Sonoma Coast Pearlescence	\$115
29	Adelsheim Vineyard	Willamette Valley	\$63
	DeLoach	California	\$36
		California Heritage Reserve	\$54
30	Domaine Drouhin	Dundee Hills	\$92
	Elk Cove	Willamette Valley	\$64
		Willamette Valley La Sirene	\$42
	Domaine Serene	Willamette Valley Yamhill Cuvée	\$102
33	Hartford Family Winery	Russian River Valley Hartford Court	\$78
35	Angeline	California	\$36
		California Reserve	\$48