

# JEB DUNNUCK

## Brilliance from Sonoma Regional Report

Wayfarer Vineyard Reviews by Jeb Dunnuck. Posted June 5th, 2018.



"The big news at Wayfarer is the moving on of star winemaker Bibiana González Rave to focus on her own label and assistant winemaker Todd Kohn taking over the helm. Todd has been with Wayfarer since 2013 and certainly, along with Cleo Pahlmeyer, the vineyard and estate are in talented hand. All these 2016s were made by Bibiana, and as the notes and scores show, they're truly sensational, world class wines."

### Wayfarer 2016 Pinot Noir The Traveler

99

My favorite in the lineup was the 2016 Pinot Noir The Traveler, but these are all pretty much desert island wines. Coming from a suitcase clone rumored to be from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti and planted in 2001, it was completely destemmed and spent 15 months in 83% new French oak, which is the most new oak of any of the Pinot Noirs. Sensational notes of passion fruits, blood orange, black raspberries, spice, and crazy floral notes give way to medium to full-bodied Pinot Noir that's just about as good as it gets. With perfect tannins, a seamless, weightless texture, no hard edges, and a blockbuster finish, this finesse-driven, elegant Pinot Noir needs to be tasted to be believed. Hats off to Bibiana Gonzalez Rave.

### Wayfarer 2016 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard

98

The 2016 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard is an extraordinary effort as well as world-class. Offering an ultra-pure bouquet of white flowers, tangerine, crushed citrus, and hints of brioche and marzipan, it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, a seamless, elegant texture, riveting acidity, and a great, great finish. It's certainly one of the gems in the great vintage and is going to benefit from a year or two of bottle age and keep for 15+ years.

### Wayfarer 2016 Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge

98

From a single block and single clone (clone 667), the 2016 Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge is the tiniest production cuvée with only 40 cases made. Completely destemmed and brought up in just 50% new French oak, it offers more richness and flesh, with lots of cassis, toasted spice, black raspberries, and candied flowers. Deep, full-bodied, incredibly textured and perfectly balanced, it's another extraordinary Pinot Noir from this great site and great winemaker.

## Wayfarer 2016 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard

97

The 2016 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard was completely destemmed and spent 15 months in 45% new French oak. It offers a bright framboise, cranberry, exotic flower, and spice-driven bouquet that carries to a medium-bodied, silky Pinot Noir that has everything in all the right places. Showing more floral, spice, and forest floor with time in the glass, incredible tannin quality, and a great finish, it's certainly on par with the single parcel/clone driven releases.

## Wayfarer 2016 Pinot Noir Mother Rock

96+

Sourced from two blocks as well (blocks 3 and block 11) and from more sandstone soils in the vineyard (which is the mother rock of the site), the 2016 Pinot Noir Mother Rock saw 20% stems and the same 15 months in 67% new French oak. With a deep, incredibly floral character as well as classic jammy raspberries, toasted bread, and spice aromatics, this beauty is more full-bodied and powerful, with building tannin, obvious oak, and a great finish. Young and unevolved, hide bottle for at least 2-3 years.

## Wayfarer 2016 Pinot Noir Golden Mean

95+

The 2016 Pinot Noir Golden Mean comes mostly from the Swan clone yet includes plenty of Pommard as well. The cuvée comes from two parcels in the estate vineyard, is cofermented (with around 10% whole cluster), and spent 15 months in 67% new French oak. It offers a more black fruited style with a huge nose of black cherries, scorched earth, charcoal, and just a hint of exotic flowers. Medium-bodied, rich, and structured, it's another wine that builds with time in the glass. Give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following decade.