

Producer commentary

From the first vintage, in 2012, it was evident that the Pahlmeyer family's Wayfarer property on the Sonoma Coast was a special place capable of producing truly world-class wines. My most recent tasting of Wayfarer was fascinating, as I had a chance to taste every wine made of the property back to 2012 with Cleo Pahlmeyer and winemaker Bibiana González Rave. The 2014 have fished out quite a bit over the last few months. I can't say that is a huge surprise given how tightly wound they were earlier in the year. What did surprise me was how slowly both the 2012s and 2013s are maturing. The Wayfarer wines are not suited for immediate gratification, so readers should plan on cellaring all of these wines for at least a few years upon release.



Wayfarer 2014 Pinot Noir The Traveler

Fort Ross Seaview, Sonoma

94 pts

The 2014 Pinot Noir The Traveler comes across as a blend of the 2012 and 2013. Aromatically lifted and intense, the 2014 is also the most complete of these 2014 Pinots from Wayfarer. Lavender, sage, mint, hard candy, licorice and a host of purplish-hued fruits infuse a Pinot loaded with personality and class. The 2014 has really come together over the last few months. Today, it is striking. The Traveler takes its name from the suitcase clones, originally from Burgundy, that are planted on parts of the property.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: January 2016

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Wayfarer 2014 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard Fort Ross Seaview, Sonoma



94 pts

The 2014 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard is a total knock-out. Deep, phenolic and intense, the 2014 exudes power from start to finish. Lemon confit, orange blossom, mint and white pepper are all pushed forward. Today, the Chardonnay is quite bold, but there is plenty of latent finesse as well. I would give the 2014 at least another year or two. There is certainly a lot to look forward to. At times, I feel the far Sonoma Coast's greatest potential is with Chardonnay rather than Pinot (which is much more popular in the market). This is one of those times.

Wayfarer 2014 Pinot Noir Mother Rock Fort Ross Seaview, Sonoma



92+ pts

One of the most reticent wines in the lineup, the 2014 Pinot Noir Mother Rock remains tightly wound to the core. With time in the glass, scents of inky blue/purplish fruit, graphite and savory herbs gradually start to open up. As the name implies, the Mother Rock is intensely mineral-driven in style. As such, it will likely be the last wine in this group to show all it has to offer. Today, it is the wine's energy and pure drive that truly stand out. The Mother Rock is the most dramatically transformed wine over the last few months now that the fruit has finally begun to show. Still, I would not plan on opening a bottle for at least a few years.

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Wayfarer 2014 Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge Fort Ross Seaview, Sonoma

92 pts

The 2014 Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge is one of the most overt wines in the Wayfarer range. Creamy, ample and expressive, with plenty of new oak influence, the Paige's Ridge wraps around the palate with expressive black cherry, plum, violet, dark spice and lavender. This is an especially deep, unctuous style for the Sonoma Coast. The new oak is still quite evident, but over the last few months, the wine has started to fill out its frame and absorb some of the oak. In 2014, winemaker Bibiana Gonzalez-Rave dropped some of the whole clusters, which resulted in a decidedly dark, sumptuous Pinot Noir. The 20% whole clusters are pretty much buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit.

Wayfarer 2014 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyards Fort Ross Seaview, Sonoma



92+ pts

The 2014 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard has begun to open up nicely since I last tasted it a few months ago. Black cherry, plum, graphite, smoke and licorice give the 2014 much of its dark, virile personality. This is a distinctly brooding, tightly wound Sonoma Coast Pinot that still needs time in bottle.