

## The 15 Best California Pinot Noirs

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REVIEWS BY KAREN MACNEIL

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With a title like "The 15 Best California Pinot Noirs," I think it's fair for you to know what I am looking for when I blind taste Pinot Noir. The answer is four things above all else: **beauty, complexity, precision, and choreography.**

- Karen MacNeil

The thrilling beauty of great Pinot Noir-with its subtle richness that fairly floats over your palate-is unsurpassed by any other grape variety. By contrast, Pinots devoid of beauty often carry too much alcohol or new oak, causing them to land with an awkward thud on your palate (not a good sensation)



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### 2018 CATTLEYA PINOT NOIR BELLY OF THE WHALE

Winemaker/owner Bibiana Gonzalez Rave was born and grew up in Colombia, but her degree is from the University of Bordeaux, and she's made wine at several top Bordeaux estates (including Château Haut-Brion). How she pulls such beauty into her Pinet Noirs is unexplained, but they are juicy with red fruits, elegant, and hum with vitality.

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