

Excerpt from

Allen Meadows'

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2003 Pinot Noir – Seven Twenty Eight: (from the Fiddlestix Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills, bottled at 14.1%). A pretty nose of deeply pitched red berry fruit that display distinct earth notes merges into round, rich, nicely detailed and supple middle weight flavors that coat the mouth and remain on the palate. This is not overly complex yet it is a good deal less fruitdriven than many pinots, taking on more interesting earth and forest floor characteristics. Delicious and serious. 89/2008+

2002 Pinot Noir – Oldsville Reserve: (from Willamette Valley fruit, specifically the Elton, Seven Springs, Yamhill Valley and Lewman Vineyards, bottled at 14.1%). A highly expressive nose of briar, red fruit and earth dissolves into rich, sweet and intense medium full flavors that are delicious and while not exactly flashy, they lean in that direction. The only nit here is a noticeably warm finish so be sure to drink this at a suitably cool temperature. 88/2008+

2002 Pinot Noir – Seven Twenty Eight: (from the Fiddlestix Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills, bottled at 14.1%). The nose here is quite similar, as one might hope actually, to the 2003 version though it's not quite as ripe, with the same deeply pitched berry and earth notes that continue onto the fresh, elegant and pure medium weight flavors that deliver good detail on the rich finish. Interestingly, this strikes me as slightly less evolved than the '03 and should continue to improve in bottle. 90/2009+

2002 Pinot Noir – Lollapalooza: (from the Fiddlestix Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills, bottled at 14.1%; note that the Lollapalooza cuvée is not made every year). An intensely earthy nose of dark berry fruit that displays hints of smoke, truffle, spice and leather gives way to round, intense, sweet and beautifully detailed flavors where the moderately structured finish really coats the mouth with sappy extract. This is still somewhat youthfully awkward yet it's clear that the underlying material is of serious quality. This will need at least 5 years in the cellar to see its best days. 90/2010+

2001 Pinot Noir – Seven Springs: (from Willamette Valley fruit, bottled at 14.0%). A fragrant nose combines notes of menthol, mint, briar and subtle spice notes that complement the very fresh and sweet middle weight flavors that offer good if not distinguished depth and an attractive texture on the sneaky long finish. There is a bit of acid tang on the finish but it's not intrusive and this will continue to age to good effect. 88/2008+