

Independent Wine Evaluation

2013 Decimus Pinot Noir, Tithe Wines, Los Carneros, Napa Valley

Pinot Noir can be so delicate as to be overlooked; this one belts out from the glass from the first moment. Full, round and flavorful, it shows Rioja-like spice, leather and brown sugar early on—backed by a deep swell of fresh cherry, stewed strawberry and orange marmalade.

It's not overly New World in style, however. With some oxygen, a cycle of perfumy floral-and-spice potpourri notes keeps things interesting for a couple of hours. Subtle wet clay and black olive notes suggest earth character will develop with time in the cellar. A bit warm and powerful for some, this Pinot is nonetheless even-keeled and full of the floral, fleshy, organic feminine character serious Pinot collectors cherish.

Complexity: Very good; quite a variety of distinct aromas

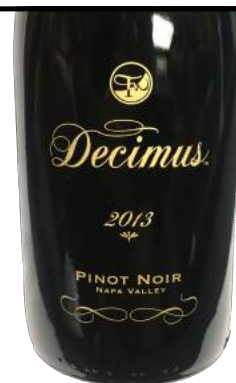
Balance: The alcohol will be a notch high for some Pinot fans; however, we did not find it to be problematic; well-balanced overall

Intensity: Very good; no part of its broad aroma profile is understated

Character: Memorably deep, feminine, round, soothing, warm, organic

Typicity: Indisputably Pinot-esque, but fuller than typical Carneros; at times, more like meaty Grand Cru Burgundy from the Cote de Nuits

THE SOMMELIER COMPANY



Appellation: Los Carneros
AVA, Napa Valley, California

Vintage: 2013

Composition: Pinot Noir

Alcohol: 14.4%

Release Price: \$50

VISUAL, AROMATIC AND FLAVOR CHARACTERISTICS:

Appearance: Ruby-garnet, bright and youthful with no rim variation

Fruit, Floral: Bing cherry, stewed strawberry, raspberry, orange marmalade, cherry tomato, orange blossom perfume, fresh rose, lavender, potpourri

Spice, Herbal, Vegetal: Sweet clove, nutmeg, eucalyptus

Oak, Earth, Other: Brown sugar, lambskin leather, black olive, wet clay

RESULTS:

Stage 1: Blind Tasting

— Complexity: 8/10

— Balance: 7/10

— Intensity: 8/10

Stage 2: Non-Blind

— Character: 8/10

— Typicity: 8/10

SCORE: 93

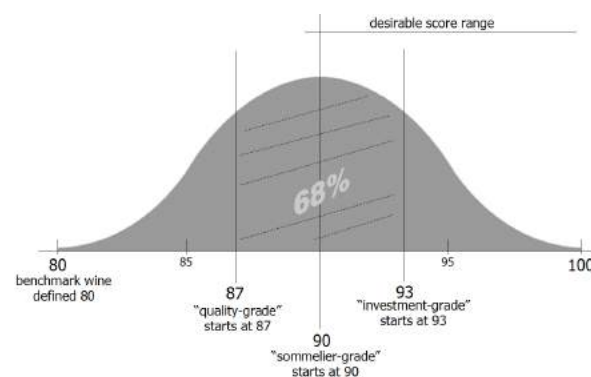


Tasting conducted May 25, 2017

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EVALUATION MODEL:



METHODOLOGY DISCLOSURE: Full evaluation criteria and process description available upon request. Wines are tasted and evaluated in a controlled environment. Wine samples are provided by producer as part of paid evaluation assignment. Evaluation model assumes that wine quality is normally distributed between scores 80 and 100, where 80 represents a simple, but not flawed, standard wine.