



## West Coast Blind Tasting Seminar

*The Wines + The AVAs*

*Thank you for attending the West Coast Blind Tasting Challenge Seminar at the 2022 World of Pinot Noir. Below are the wines you tasted, as well as some key characteristics for each of the AVAs featured. A huge thanks to our moderators, Clare Tooley, MW, and Joshua Orr, MS, for leading the seminar and helping with this fun cheat sheet on the leading AVAs on the West Coast and the Pinot Noirs that best represent them.*

### The Wines

#### **Anderson Valley AVA**

2019 Maggy Hawk, Jolie, \$65  
[maggyhawk.com](http://maggyhawk.com)

#### **Arroyo Grande AVA**

2019 Talley Vineyards, Rosemary's Vineyard, \$85  
[talleyvineyards.com](http://talleyvineyards.com)

#### **Edna Valley AVA**

2019 Tolosa, Stone Lion, \$74  
[tolosawinery.com](http://tolosawinery.com)

#### **Russian River Valley AVA**

2018 Patz & Hall, Little Boot Vineyard, \$80  
[patzhall.com](http://patzhall.com)

#### **Santa Lucia Highlands AVA**

2018 Landmark Vineyards, Escolle, \$60  
[landmarkwine.com](http://landmarkwine.com)

#### **Santa Maria AVA**

2019 Lumen, Julia's Vineyard, \$62  
[lumenwines.com](http://lumenwines.com)

#### **SLO Coast AVA**

2019 El Lugar, Spanish Springs Vineyard, \$48  
[ellugarwines.com](http://ellugarwines.com)

#### **Sonoma Coast AVA**

2019 Chalk Hill, Sonoma Coast, \$29  
[chalkhill.com](http://chalkhill.com)

#### **Sta. Rita Hills AVA**

2020 Melville, Estate, \$40  
[melvillewinery.com](http://melvillewinery.com)

#### **Willamette Valley AVA**

2018 Raptor Ridge, Temperance Hill Vineyard, Eola-Amity Hills, \$50, [raptorridgewinery.com](http://raptorridgewinery.com)



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### The AVAs

#### **Anderson Valley**

2019 Maggy Hawk, Jolie

This is a very small region that varies in climate from the West End to the East End. With the style of Pinot varying as well. Lots of elegant structure in Anderson Valley with acidity that's often vibrant, punchy and fresh, plus tart to just-ripe fruit. It should be noted that the East End can get quite ripe and rich depending upon site.

#### **Arroyo Grande**

2019 Talley Vineyards, Rosemary's Vineyard

A similarly small valley like its neighbor, the Edna Valley, and also very heavily maritime influenced. Arroyo Grande has a long, cool growing season, so concentrated ripeness, darker fruit profiles and soft yet zippy acidity. Rosemary's is quintessential old-vine Arroyo Grande Pinot. It has all the hallmarks: elegance and silky texture with pure delineated fruit and well-integrated oak.

#### **Edna Valley**

2019 Tolosa, Stone Lion

Next to the Arroyo Grande Valley, Edna has a heavy maritime influence and is a classic cool climate region (in fact, it's technically the coolest AVA in California). It has volcanic and limestone soils with large diurnal temperature shifts – thanks to the sea being mere miles away. This wine has classic Edna characteristics: Elegant style with ripe fruit and good acidity but lighter color and supple tannins.

#### **Russian River Valley**

2018 Patz & Hall, Little Boot Vineyard

One of the warmest places on the planet where Pinot Noir is grown. The wine has key RRV notes: complex Burgundy-like earth and fruit perfume with intense ripe-fruit flavors. Cola spice is also a hallmark. These wines can handle a fair share of oak. Overall: elegance and power are key tells for the RRV.

#### **Santa Lucia Highlands**

2018 Landmark Vineyards, Escolle

Elevation on the east-facing side of the valley, granite soils, maritime influenced climate with heavy winds make for powerhouse wines with marked succulent acidity, but also fruit ripeness and an ABV to match. This wine hails from a coveted, well-adapted site where climate, microclimate, soil, clone and winemaking all come together to create classic SLH magic.



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### The AVAs

#### **Santa Maria**

2019 Lumen, Julia's Vineyard

A transverse valley that gets major wind and fog influence from the Pacific. Soils are mainly sandy loams. Wines boast fresh red fruit flavors, silky texture, bright acidity – thanks to the daily wind and temperature shifts – along with notable tannins. Like this delicious wine, Santa Maria often boasts a more savory, nervy edge to the aromas and flavors.

#### **SLO Coast**

2019 El Lugar, Spanish Springs Vineyard

SLO Coast has a heavy maritime influence with a very long growing season with moderate temperatures. There are often loads of vibrant acidity and crunchy just-ripe darker fruit (sometimes with a touch of tartness). SLO Coast is reminiscent of New Zealand's Martinborough and Central Otago regions, but with more body, like this wine shows so well.

#### **Sonoma Coast**

2019 Chalk Hill, Sonoma Coast

Right on the ocean with vineyards defined by whether they sit above or below the nightly fog line. Wines tend to show loads of tension. Just-ripe red berry fruits with hints of herbal and earthy notes, and great acidity and complexity at often lower ABVs. As you notice in this wine, typical notes for the Sonoma Coast include sandalwood/incense and unashamedly Californian red fruit.

#### **Sta. Rita Hills**

2020 Melville, Estate

This wine is a great example of the region's ability to have Pinots of great acidity and freshness with alcohol verging on the high side. The wine is semi-carbonic, almost low sulfur/natty feel is also part of the regional identity in terms of wineries pushing the boundaries on production methods. Key tells for Sta. Rita Hills include dark fruits and hints of licorice.

#### **Willamette Valley**

2018 Raptor Ridge, Temperance Hill Vineyard, Eola-Amity Hills

The Eola-Amity Hills, and Temperance Hill Vineyard specifically, is a great flag bearer for the Willamette Valley. It is the first spot hit by the ocean's cool air and fog when coming through the Van Duzer Corridor. The wines tend to have a darker spicier character with a little rugged tannin. Willamette often boasts a subtle nod to Burgundy, so more savory than ripe fruit.



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Map



1. **Willamette Valley**
2. **Anderson Valley**
3. **Russian River Valley**
4. **Sonoma Coast**
5. **Santa Lucia Highlands**
6. **SLO Coast**
7. **Edna Valley**
8. **Arroyo Grande**
9. **Santa Maria**
10. **Sta. Rita Hills**



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