



*International Wine Cellar, July/August 2011*

- 93 2008 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir Casteel Reserve**  
**Eola Amity Hills**  
Complex, spice-accented bouquet displays raspberry preserves, cherry-cola, potpourri and smoky minerals. Energetic and precise on the palate, offering juicy red and dark berry flavors that show impressive depth and energy. Gains weight with air, picking up a mocha note and finishing with impressive power and focus. I'd stash this away for at least five more years.
- 90 2008 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir Estate Grown**  
**Eola-Amity Hills**  
Pungent, floral-accented aromas of cherry-cola and dark berries, with a sexy note of Indian spices emerging with air. Fleshy and smooth, with sappy dark berry flavors and notes of allspice and black cardamom. This very suave pinot finishes with strong thrust and sweet persistence.
- 88 2009 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir Willamette Valley**  
Strawberry and spices on the nose, along with a subtle floral quality and a touch of black tea. Fresh, focused red fruit flavors show good intensity, no excess weight and a tangy spine of acidity. With its good finishing cut and tangy persistence, this is very easy to drink.
- 92 2008 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir Flat Block**  
**Eola-Amity Hills**  
Bright, assertive aromas of strawberry and raspberry, with complicating Asian spice and floral accents. Juicy, precise and alluringly sweet, offering lively red berry and cherry flavors and an exotic spicecake quality. Suave, silky and precise, finishing with excellent clarity and persistence.
- 92 2008 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir Southeast Block**  
**Eola-Amity Hills**  
High-pitched aromas of raspberry, cherry, Asian spice and fresh flowers, with a touch of white pepper. Lively and precise on the palate, offering sappy red berry and floral pastille flavors underscored by tangy minerality and a note of blood orange. Impressively pure and focused, but there's depth here too. Finishes on a bright, spicy note, with lingering florality. I really like this wine's balance and precision.
- 91(+?) 2008 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir Carter Vineyard**  
**Eola-Amity Hills**  
Aromas of blackberry, cherry-vanilla, saffras and potpourri, with slow-building spiciness and a hint of musky underbrush. Pliant and deep in dark fruit flavors, with a firm mineral spine and late tannins adding structure. Powerful but very well-balanced pinot noir, finishing with excellent clarity and spicy persistence. I'd age this for another five years or so and then serve it with grilled red meats.
- 92(+?) 2008 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir Justice Vineyard**  
**Eola-Amity Hills**  
Pungent aromas of blackberry, cola, violet and black tea, with a brighter mineral quality emerging with aeration. Juicy, palate-staining dark berry flavors possess very good depth and show a gentle sweetness. Floral pastille and spicecake nuances come up on the back half and carry through a long, sappy, focused finish. The most serious of this year's set of pinots right now; give it plenty of air if you want to drink it any time soon.
- 92 2008 Bethel Heights Vineyard Pinot Noir West Block Reserve**  
**Eola Amity Hills**  
Black raspberry, incense, dried rose and allspice on the nose, with a sneaky note of cola gaining strength with air. Sappy and concentrated, with sweet red and dark berry flavors and a hint of bitter cherry. Leads with its fruit today and finishes with impressive energy and lingering spiciness. Give this some air if you are compelled to drink one now.



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- 91 2009 Dobbes Family Estate Pinot Noir Dundee Cuvee Dundee Hills**  
Deep ruby. Exotic perfume of dark berry preserves, cherry-cola and violet, complicated by an orange marmalade quality and building spiciness. Rich and fleshy but energetic, offering ripe blackberry and cherry flavors and a touch of candied violet. Leaves smoky dark fruit notes behind on the long, clinging finish. Lots going on here now but this has the depth and power to age.
- 93 2008 Dobbes Family Estate Pinot Noir *Joseph Dobbes Cuvee Exceptionelle* Willamette Valley**  
Deep ruby. Kaleidoscopic scents of red and dark berry preserves, singed plum, incense and vanilla, plus a sexy note of spicy gingerbread. Lush, expansive and appealingly sweet, offering powerful black raspberry and cherry-vanilla flavors that are at once seamless and energetic. Ripe and extremely persistent on the finish, with the dark berry and spice notes repeating. Impressively rich but has improbable energy too.
- 88(+?) 2008 Dobbes Family Estate Pinot Noir Griffin's Cuvee Willamette Valley**  
Bright ruby. Youthful, powerful aromas of raspberry and cherry, with smoke and herb nuances and a hint of violet. Densely packed red fruit flavors show a bitter, medicinal cast and are slow to unfold. A nervy spine of acidity adds support and focus to the bitter cherry and anise flavors, which linger on the slightly tannic finish. Lots of fruit here but it takes some coaxing to come up.
- 91 2008 Dobbes Family Estate Pinot Noir Quailhurst Vineyard Chehalem Mountains**  
Bright ruby. An expressive bouquet displays cherry-cola, anise, woodsmoke and an exotic note of pipe tobacco. Brighter red fruits dominate the palate, which shows very good depth and attractive sweetness, picking up a bitter chocolate quality with air. Finishes smoky and long, with the cherry note repeating. A serious, deep, powerful pinot that's built to age. Serve it with rich, cold-weather foods.
- 91 2008 Dobbes Family Estate Pinot Noir Symonette Vineyard Eola-Amity Hills**  
Vivid ruby. Flamboyant aromas of candied red berries, potpourri and sandalwood, with a sexy note of Asian spices coming up with aeration. Juicy, penetrating raspberry and cherry compote flavors pick up weight with air but maintain very good vivacity. Fine-grained tannins add shape and grip to the long, spicy, floral-dominated finish. Distinctly elegant in this line-up.
- 90(+?) 2008 Dobbes Family Estate Pinot Noir Youngberg Hill Vineyard McMinnville**  
Ruby-red. Pungent, deeply scented nose offers dark berries, cherry-cola, vanilla bean and mocha, with a slow-building floral character. Broad and sappy on the palate, offering chewy cherry and black raspberry flavors complemented by notes of toasty oak and candied violet. Brighter on the finish, which features notes of candied flowers and bitter berry skin. This could use some bottle age.
- 90 2008 Dobbes Family Estate Pinot Noir Meyer Vineyard Dundee Hills**  
Glass-staining ruby. Ripe, almost porty dark berry and cherry compote aromas, with notes of candied licorice and mocha. Brighter on the palate, offering energetic blackberry and cherry-cola flavors enlivened by a note of orange zest. With its wild interplay of richness and vivacity, this acts like two wines in one. The blackberry note repeats on the smooth, long finish.

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- 90**     **2009 Penner-Ash Wine Cellars Pinot Noir Willamette Valley**  
Ruby-red. Sexy aromas of strawberry and raspberry preserves and potpourri, with slow-building spiciness and a hint of vanillin oak. Sappy and nicely focused on the palate, offering lively red and dark berry flavors and a hint of bitter chocolate. Finishes with good grip and punch, repeating the red fruit note. For a rich wine this shows good energy.
- 91**     **2009 Penner-Ash Wine Cellars Pinot Noir Dussin Vineyard Willamette Valley**  
Full ruby-red. Powerful, oak-spiced aromas of blackberry and cherry, with a pungent floral quality and a hint of licorice. Shows the ripe side of the year, with palate-coating dark berry and floral pastille flavors and a sexy note of spicecake. Leaves mocha and vanilla notes behind on the long, sappy, smoky finish. This could handle a rich piece of roasted or braised red meat.
- 92**     **2009 Penner-Ash Wine Cellars Pinot Noir Shea Vineyard Yamhill-Carlton District**  
Bright ruby. Powerful aromas of black raspberry, candied violet and cola, with an oak spice nuance adding vivacity. Rich but lively in the mouth, offering sappy, palate-staining dark berry, cherry-vanilla and spicecake flavors. Finishes smooth and long, leaving floral and vanilla notes behind. This could stand up to strongly seasoned red meats.
- 93**     **2009 Penner-Ash Wine Cellars Pinot Noir Pas de Nom Willamette Valley**  
Bright ruby. Black raspberry, cherry-cola, incense and fresh rose on the highly perfumed, oak-spiced nose. Supple and sweet, offering deep red and dark berry preserve flavors and notes of candied flowers and spicecake. A suave vanilla note builds with air and carries through the very long, juicy, smoke-accented finish. Smooth and very seductive now, but has the depth to reward at least another five years of aging.
- 91**     **2009 Penner-Ash Wine Cellars Pinot Noir Zena Crown Vineyard Eola-Amity Hills**  
Full ruby-red. Raspberry, cherry pit and spicecake on the fragrant nose. Deeply pitched red and dark berry flavors are complemented by notes of rhubarb and bitter chocolate, along with slow-mounting smokiness and a late lick of peppery spice. Shows very good power and focus on the finish, which lingers with strong spicy persistence.
- 90**     **2009 Penner-Ash Wine Cellars Pinot Noir Elevee Vineyard Dundee Hills**  
Bright ruby-red. Cherry, violet, cracked pepper and woodsmoke on the nose, with a hint of raspberry coming up with air. Juicy, focused and spicy, with deep red and dark berry flavors and building sweetness. Gentle tannins add shape to the long, sappy, sweet finish. Much more approachable than the '08 bottling, which is a hands-off wine right now.