

PINOTREPORT

for people passionate about western pinot noir

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C. DONATIELLO WINERY

C. Donatiello is a new Pinot Noir and Chardonnay venture developed on the site of the old Belvedere Winery on Westside Road and is a partnership between venture capitalist Bill Hambrecht and Chris Donatiello, an energetic, driven former wine marketing executive from the East Coast. Chris has spearheaded the renovation of the Westside Road estate and winery while Winemaker Webster Marquez (also of Anthill Farms) is crafting terrific Pinot, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. Pinot bottlings for 2006 include a Russian River blend and vineyard designates from the Floodgate Vineyard and the Maddie's Vineyard. The current releases as well as the 2007s, tasted in barrel, are excellent, deep, delicious Pinots and very much worthy of your attention. Owner Chris Donatiello and his team have created a true Pinot Noir estate on Westside Road. The grounds are stunning—from tiered gardens in front of the winery to the towering redwoods around the estate. The winery has a seasonal aroma garden that we all explored—it's made up of a myriad of plants and trees designed to mirror the notes found in the C. Donatiello wines. For Chardonnay, there's Lemon Verbena, Asian Pear, Pink Lady Apple and Arctic Rose Nectarine; for Pinot Noir the garden features Bing Cherry, Amity Raspberry, Plum and a variety of roses

C. Donatiello Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2006

Medium ruby color; dusty, earthy herbal cherry aromas; ripe, earthy cherry flavors with herbal notes, sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. This is a ripe, earthy Pinot that's a blend of grapes sourced from around the Russian River Valley.

2,750 cases made \$48 Score: 91

C. Donatiello Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

Floodgate Vineyard Old Vines 2006

Medium-deep ruby color; earthy, savory spices, cherry and berry aromas; big, rich earthy red cherry and berry flavors with savory spices, herbal notes, sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex, savory spice notes highlight this Pinot from 30-year-old vines in the winery's Floodgate Vineyard in the heart of the Russian River Valley. Needs some time to open up in the glass

175 cases made \$57 Score: 90



WINNER

James Beard Award For
Newsletter Writing On Food,
Beverage, Restaurants
and Nutrition

C. Donatiello Winery

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

Maddie's Vineyard 2006

Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dark cherry aromas with earthy, spice notes; ripe, deep black cherry flavors with spicy, cinnamon notes, sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and rich Pinot with nice complex spicy cherry flavors; fruit is sourced from the winery's Maddie's Vineyard along Westside Road in some of the Russian River's prime Pinot country. Needs air time in the glass and this Pinot will reward some cellar patience.

185 cases made \$61 Score: 92