

complexity that often accompanies old-vine mixed blacks (in fact, the blend includes younger hillside plantings of petite sirah and barbera). This combines smoky black tannins and round, mouth-coating fruit density in a wine to decant for slow-braised lamb shank. (425 cases) *Kunde Family Estate, Kenwood, CA*

90 | Ravenswood \$35
2008 Dry Creek Valley Teldeschi Zinfandel An old-fashioned zin with the complexity of mixed blacks (the original blocks were planted from 1913 to 1917), this measures its blackberry fruit against earthy notes of tannin. It's ripe, but not at all prune-y or porty, just balanced with the peppery sweetness of zin. Decant it for grilled lamb. (2,800 cases) *Ravenswood, Sonoma, CA*

89 | Dutton-Goldfield \$30
2009 Russian River Valley Dutton Ranch Stoezt Ridge Vineyard Zinfandel (Best Buy) This comes from a vineyard adjacent to their Morelli Lane zinfandel, where the Duttons grafted zin over pinot noir vines in 2002. It's a big, rich red in 2009, the bold spice and equally bold fruit carrying touches of green as well as super-ripeness. The texture is silken, the flavors all up front at the moment. For roast squab. *Dutton-Goldfield, Santa Rosa, CA*

88 | Parkers Estate \$20
2009 Sonoma County Dillon Springs Road Zinfandel (Best Buy) A bold and juicy zin that edges toward super-ripeness, this wine's black fruit has a raisined edge. There's an herbal hint of tobacco in the finish. For pasta with a pork ragù. (1,490 cases) *Parkers Estate, Kenwood, CA*

NEW YORK RED

FINGER LAKES

92 | Lamoreaux Landing \$25
2008 Finger Lakes 76 West Cabernet franc leads this Chinon-like red at just over half of the blend, while cabernet sauvignon and merlot play supporting roles. Franc's foresty scents give way to a deeper, dark green spice. The flavors are tight, bright and expressive. To pair with duck breast. (400 cases) *Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars, Lodi, NY*

OREGON WHITE

PINOT BLANC

93 | Spindrift \$15
2010 Willamette Valley Pinot Blanc (Best Buy) Silky and tense at the outset, with

scents of apple blossoms and quince, this sleek pinot blanc has a purity of fruit. Its modest richness is balanced by fine acidity in a tang of minerals. The texture is delightful; ideal to pair with a lemony frisée salad. (200 cases) *Spindrift Cellars, Philomath, OR*

PINOT GRIS



93 | Benton-Lane \$17
2010 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris Generous and very pretty in its scent of lemon blossom and minerals, this wine's mild leesy note emerges with air. The leaner flavors of key lime and lemon create tension with broader, richer apple notes, while the wine's mineral underpinning keeps everything on point. A crisp foil to smoked salmon canapés. (3,286 cases) Benton-Lane Winery, Monroe, OR

91 | Van Duzer \$16
2010 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris (Best Buy) Broad and spicy at the outset, this wine grows richer with air toward a biscuity, savory note. Its flavors of winesap apples and herbs end in a talclike finish, with a burst of mineral energy. For sole *en papillote*. (1,300 cases) *Van Duzer Vineyards, Dallas, OR*

PINOT NOIR BLANC

90 | Erath \$55
2009 Willamette Valley Le Jour Magique White Pinot Noir This savory white is mildly smoky with broad lactic scents—a mix of parmesan and lees. Its quince-like fruit serves as a foil to those umami flavors. For a mushroom frittata. (180 cases) *Erath Vineyards, Dundee, OR*

WHITE BLEND

90 | Brooks \$15
2008 Willamette Valley Amicas (Best Buy) Brooks' ersatz Edelzwicker is a blend of pinot gris, pinot blanc, gewurztraminer, chardonnay, muscat and riesling. It leads with an exotic mélange of quince and rosewater, the flavors lean and lemony; it's a food wine, for herbed grilled chicken breast. (1,050 cases) *Brooks Wines, McMinnville, OR*

OREGON RED

PINOT NOIR



96 | Evening Land Vyd. \$60
2009 Eola-Amity Hills La Source Seven Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir This masterful pinot noir embodies that wonderful varietal paradox of suppleness matched with tensile strength. Its floral scents of violets and roses rise over earth-dusted cherries and a hint of tar. With air the wine gets silkier, livelier, while its flavors are simultaneously light and earthbound—lithe, sinewy and transparent even as it remains forceful and assertive. It fills the mouth without overreaching, hinting at its potential. Cellar it, to uncork for a special meal. *The Evening Land Vineyards, Carlton, OR*

95 | Evening Land Vyd. \$120
2009 Eola-Amity Hills Summum Seven Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir Juicier than La Source, this has demonstrative black cherry and plum scents framed by hints of woodland briar and dried flowers. The wine is both ripe and lean, with flavors of wild cherry sprinkled with herbs and flowers, generous and clean-lined. Like La Source, it has presence without pronounced body, persistence without weight—contrasts that make the wine completely seductive and suggest a long life ahead. *The Evening Land Vineyards, Carlton, OR*

94 | St. Innocent \$42
2009 Willamette Valley Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Best Buy) This savory pinot leads with beguiling scents of plum and anise, suggesting even in its bouquet that it's a high-toned wine. The fresh core of fruit is supported by a fine vinous texture and a white pepper spiciness that runs through many St. Innocent wines, a character winemaker Mark Vlossak attributes to his preference for warmer fermentations. With firm soil-inflected tannins, this is poised for a long life. Or serve it now with wild mushroom pasta. (680 cases) *St. Innocent Winery, Salem, OR*