

Pinot Noir Press



COULOIR WINES

A Pinot Noir-focused winery in Northern California, Couloir Wines shows the Pinot Noir grape's stunning versatility through winemaker Jon Grant's artistic interpretations of exceptional vineyard sites.



Founded in 2007 by owner/winemaker Jon Grant, Couloir Wines makes handcrafted, single-vineyard Pinot Noir from obscure corners of California's finest winegrowing regions. Jon seeks out these unique properties to make wines with ultimate site expression. His winemaking style is deliberately minimalist, allowing the *terroir* to come through in each of his wines with distinct complexities, textures, flavors, and aromas. Not only do his wines convey a unique sense of place, they are also highly awarded with numerous prestigious accolades and too many 90+ scores to count.

Jon Grant was first introduced to the wine industry while living and working in Snowbird, Utah where he was pursuing his other great passion in life - skiing and ski mountaineering. Jon was working in the beverage department of the Snowbird Ski Resort, managing the wine store and running the wine programs for the resort's fine dining establishments, and realized the wine industry was his true calling in life. He eventually found his way to Napa Valley, and that is where the real journey began.

Jon spent the next several years gaining valuable winemaking and winegrowing experience with some of Napa's top wine producers - Robert Mondavi, Corison, PlumpJack, and Turley. Each position

added to his practice, leading him to find a personal style of wine that most suited him. He was drawn to Pinot Noir for its terroir-driven nature, its food friendliness at the table, its aromatic intensity, and its ability to respond to minimal winemaking intervention. In 2007, he was ready to start his own winery label, a Pinot Noir-focused brand, and Couloir Wines was born.

The winery name, Couloir, is an homage to Jon's passion for skiing and ski mountaineering (couloirs are beautifully steep, mountainside gorges). The name also honors the fact that Jon's love for and appreciation of fine wine emerged from his passion for great skiing while living in Utah. Jon also has a sister winery to Couloir that he named Straight Line after the perfect ski shots - the steep, straight lines - that some couloirs offer.

The fruit for Couloir Wines is sourced from properties in Sta. Rita Hills, Marin County, Anderson Valley, and Sonoma Coast. Each wine is remarkably distinct to its region and vineyard and since the inaugural vintage, the entire line up of wines has been very impressive.

We are happy to introduce Couloir Wines and Jon Grant's beautiful Chileno Valley Vineyard Pinot Noir to our wine club members. Enjoy!



ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Jon Grant is the owner and winemaker for the esteemed Couloir Wines, which was selected by *Wine & Spirits* magazine as one of seven brands from around the world to watch in 2013. With Couloir, Jon is successfully showing the stunning versatility of Pinot Noir through wines with "a true sense of place and time." Prior to starting Couloir, Jon attended extension classes offered at UC Davis and Napa Valley College to further his winemaking and winegrowing knowledge and worked at Robert Mondavi Winery, Corison, PlumpJack, and Turley Wine Cellars, where he was the assistant winemaker to Ehren Jordan for over a decade. Jon's minimalist winemaking approach has resulted in countless award-winning, terroir-driven wines for Couloir Wines.

COULOIR 2014 PINOT NOIR Chileno Valley Vineyard, Marin County

The Couloir 2014 Chileno Valley Vineyard Pinot Noir comes from a property along the southern border of the Petaluma Gap in Marin County, which has one of the longest growing seasons in the state. This wine is both vibrant and complex, bringing together subtle red berry fruits, spice, and hints of smokiness. Intriguing flavors of dark red berries are carried by refined tannins and fresh acidity, and complemented by delicate, complex aromas. The wine finishes with persistence. Aged 12 months in oak. Enjoy now until 2022.

**94 POINTS +
EDITOR'S CHOICE**

– *Wine Enthusiast*

92 POINTS

– *Pinot File*



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