

Pinot Noir Press



WINE SPOTS WINES

Inspired by Daniel LeFrancois' travels throughout the world, Wine Spots Wines is a collection of terroir-driven wines that explore the finest wine regions and the distinctive qualities that define them.



There aren't many practicing lawyers who have given up the courtroom to become winery owners. In the case of Wine Spots Wines' owner, Daniel LeFrancois, the story of his real-life odyssey into the wine world is one worth telling.

LeFrancois attended the University of Virginia and graduated with a law degree. He joined a Washington-based law firm and began the practice of law. Some time later, LeFrancois realized the exercise of law was not for him, so he set out for an extended backpack adventure in Asia and other places. He eventually ended up in Europe and was particularly impressed with France. It was there that he first experienced the great grape's calling, and he readily admits the time was the beginning of his sojourn to becoming owner of Wine Spots Wines.

"I was in Southern France, in Bordeaux's Saint-Emilion to be exact," he recalled. "Something about the place, the ambiance, the greatness of the wines - well, they had an amazing effect on me. From that point on, I knew I wanted to be associated in some way with wine." For the next few decades, Daniel LeFrancois worked at a number of assorted jobs within the wine industry and at one point became a vice president for the well-respected French cognac producer, Camus, where he developed new brand innovations for the company.

"We were right near Bordeaux, so I had the opportunity to taste and visit most of the great Chateaux of the region and learn about wine," LeFrancois went on. "I even had the chance to eat at Chateau Lafite Rothschild a number of times. It was all a great opportunity for me."

LeFrancois eventually became associated with Asian duty-free shops, where he became the wine buyer for the multi-national collection of stores. During that time, he tasted a huge number of wines from around the world and finally settled in on what he really wanted to do - open his own winery in Sonoma County.

"I had always dreamed of doing my own thing," he added. "I felt I had acquired a really good sense of terroir, meaning the identification of exactly where a wine comes from. I had tasted many thousands of wines from just about everywhere and I had learned to identify certain aspects of their origin. I wanted to put that knowledge to good use."

Wine Spots Wines first saw the light of day in 2005, with a modest release of around 600 cases. All of the wines' fruit is sourced from LeFrancois' large number of contacts within the wine grower family.

The name of the winery is a story of
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its own. "I was traveling at one point, and a drop of wine fell on my map," he explained. "I was in wine country and the drop made me think of how nice it would be to be able to point out the exact location of the vineyard. I also thought it would make an interesting name for a winery." Each wine produced by Wine Spots Wines cleverly details the exact spot where it was grown, a first in the wine business.

Daniel LeFrancois is joined by noted winemaker Scott Peterson (Naked Wines, Scenic Root Winegrowers, WineCraft) who serves as his consulting winemaker. Peterson, a UC Davis alum, has been with LeFrancois for more than a decade and has had a firm hand in directing Wine Spots wines' particular style and direction.

Many accolades and high scores have vaulted Wine Spots Wines into the rarified air of the highest caliber Sonoma County wine producers. Its ascension to that level shows what perseverance and a great palate can provide a fledgling winery.

We are happy to introduce Wine Spots Wines to our Pinot Noir Wine Club members with this magnificent selection from the Sonoma Coast. We hope you enjoy it!

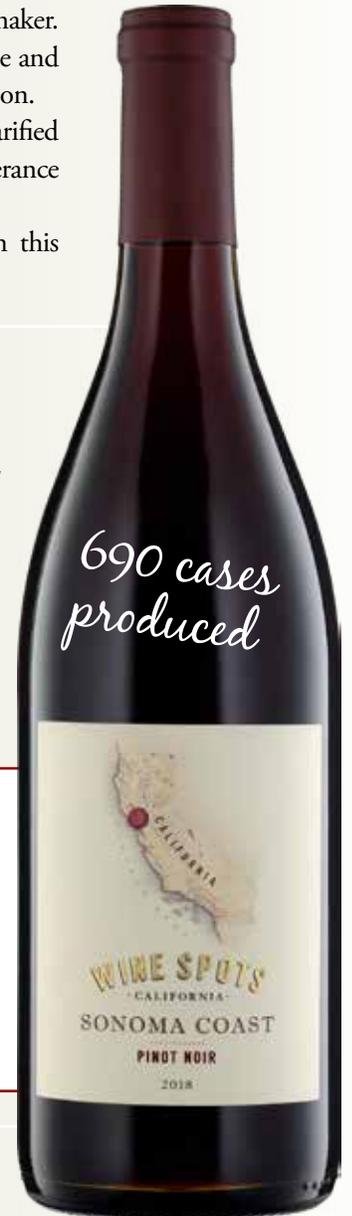
WINE SPOTS 2018 PINOT NOIR Sonoma Coast

The Wine Spots 2018 Pinot Noir comes from a selection of mature hillside vineyards in the renowned Sonoma Coast appellation, which is known for its marine influence and ideal Burgundian-style terroir. This wine offers aromas of dark cherries and flavors of red stone fruit, wrapped around a rich, voluptuous core and soft, fine tannins. The aging in French oak reveals subtle spice notes that lead into a long finish. Aged 8 months in French oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy!

**94 POINTS +
PLATINUM MEDAL**
– Critics Challenge

93 POINTS
– Wine Review Online

91 POINTS
– Ultimate Wine Challenge



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