

2011 INNOCENT BYSTANDER PINOT NOIR

Review Summary



91 pts “Contrary to conventional wisdom, not all of Australia is hot. Indeed, the Yarra Valley in Victoria is quite chilly and, as this wine shows, perfectly suited for stylish Pinot Noir, a grape that doesn’t like the heat. Although I shutter at the cutesy names of many Australian wines, it’s impossible not to be thrilled by the quality – and price – of this one. Its light color belies its depth of flavor. Fresh red fruit notes dance across the palate and complement savory earthy ones. It delivers the magical “flavor without weight” character of Pinot Noir. And it’s a fabulous value, especially for Pinot Noir.”

Michael Apstein, WineReviewOnline.com
April 30, 2013

91 pts - BEST BUY “Here’s a steal: a light, crisp, cherry-scented Pinot Noir with delicate weight and refreshing length of flavor. A high-toned scent of juniper and rose adds to the wine’s finesse. Compellingly drinkable.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine
February 2013

91+ pts “Medium cherry red color with pale meniscus; rosehips, sous bois nose; rosehips, sous bois mineral palate with medium acidity; medium-plus finish.”

Richard Jennings, RJonWine.com
February 6, 2013

90 pts “Bright, clear light crimson-purple; is definitely delivering its maximum right now, with its vibrantly fresh red berry flavors and gossamer tannins on the finish.”

James Halliday
Australian Wine Companion 2013

89 pts “Nearly transparent garnet color, with orange shadings, lightening at the rim. The nose has notes of smoked oak and dried orange peelings that frame delicate, perfumed cranberry and sour cherry fruit. The wine is feminine and silky in the mouth, picking up a note of black tea. This light red evokes comparisons with Burgundy rather than New World Pinot Noir.”

WineLinesOnline.com
April 2013



89 pts “Light, bright red. Fresh red berry and floral aromas are complicated by notes of anise and musky herbs. Light-bodied but flavorful, with intense strawberry and raspberry elements and a silky texture. Finishes gently sweet with good length, leaving a spicy note behind.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2012

88 pts “Fresh and fruity on the nose with nice red cherry scents over hints of green herbs and some floral edged soil tones. In the mouth this is focused and bright with strawberry and red cherry fruit nicely accented with a hint of wood spice and some fresh green herbal tones. The acidity and tannins are well managed leaving this rather smooth and supple in the mouth, with the balance to drive the moderately long, fruity finish.”

Gregory Dal Piaz, Snooth.com
October 15, 2013

87 pts “This light, tangy Pinot features a tart edge to the modest cherry and spice flavors, lingering gently.”

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator
June 30, 2012

“Innocent Bystander is located in the Yarra Valley, one of Australia’s best Pinot locales, and this cherry-inflected, crisp red offers true Pinot character for under \$20, a rare thing.”

Ray Isle, Eatocracy.CNN.com
September 23, 2013

“A remarkably affordable, well made Pinot Noir. Bright cherry fruit throughout with spice flavors that last through the finish. A great entry level Pinot Noir and priced around \$15 will satisfy the red wine lovers who don’t want to go too dry.”

Eileen Gross, WineEveryDay.net
September 9, 2012

“Great value for a pinot of this quality. Earthy, peppery and gamy aromas lead to fine, supple sweet fruit in the mouth. Perfectly balanced with fresh acid, vanilla oak and delicate tannins. Finishes fresh and clean.”

Jeff Collerson, Daily Telegraph - Sydney
June 9, 2012