



J.WILKES

# Wine Spectator

## Exceptional California Pinot Noirs at 90+ Points

BY AARON ROMANO. JUNE 2024

Featured here are a few wines from Santa Maria Valley (a subregion of Santa Barbara County), showcasing the successes of Southern California's cool, coastal climates. Poor soils produce small grape clusters here and, with the help of persistent Pacific winds and fogs, the resulting wines are energetic and elegant. The bulk of grapes for Foxen's lively and streamlined version come from the region's famed Bien Nacido Vineyard, and this red offers kirsch, cherry and raspberry notes. Meanwhile, J. Wilkes' regional blend shows a high-toned red tea note and a savory spine.

# 92

POINTS

### 2021 PINOT NOIR SANTA MARIA VALLEY

A pretty red, with high-toned red tea and potpourri notes leading off, followed by damson plum and raspberry coulis flavors that stretch out over a savory spine. Shows a twinge of [i]sous-bois[n] on the finish. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. Drink now through 2032. 3,243 cases made.—J.M.

