

TASTING

CENTRAL POINTS
New Zealand's Central Otago was the origin of two of the top three wines.

Central Otago lived up to its reputation for powerful, full-bodied pinot noir with rich flavours and dense but balanced tannin structures.



STAR PERFORMERS

★★★★★

- 97 2005 Giaconda Nantua Vineyard Pinot Noir
- 96 2004 Maude Pinot Noir
- 95 2006 Felton Road Pinot Noir
- 94 2005 By Farr Sangreal
- 94 2004 Martinborough Vineyard Pinot Noir
- 94 2005 Pisa Range Estate Black Poplar Block Pinot Noir
- 94 2004 Rimu Grove Pinot Noir
- 94 2005 Shelmerdine Phi
- 93 2005 Bindi Block 5 Pinot Noir
- 93 2005 Chard Farm Finla Mor Pinot Noir
- 93 2005 Dog Point Vineyard Pinot Noir
- 93 2005 Valli Bannockburn Vineyard Pinot Noir

★★★★

- 92 2005 Carrick Pinot Noir
- 92 2005 Coldstream Hills Reserve
- 92 2005 Kooyong Estate Blend Pinot Noir
- 92 2005 Mac Forbes Pinot Noir
- 92 2004 Neudorf Moutere Pinot Noir
- 92 2004 Pegasus Bay Pinot Noir
- 91 2005 Ata Rangi Pinot Noir
- 91 2005 Mt Difficulty Pipeclay Terrace Pinot Noir
- 91 2005 William Downie Pinot Noir
- 91 2005 Yering Station Reserve Pinot Noir
- 90 2005 Benedictus Pinot Noir
- 90 2004 Freycinet Vineyard Pinot Noir
- 90 2005 Greenhough Hope Vineyard Pinot Noir
- 90 2005 Grosset Pinot Noir
- 90 2004 Moorooduc Estate The Moorooduc Pinot Noir
- 90 2004 Punch Close Planted Pinot Noir
- 90 2006 Villa Maria Cellar Selection Pinot Noir
- 90 2005 Wantirna Estate Lily Pinot Noir

2004 Maude (NZ\$32.95) impressed us with its complexity and excellent structure. What's more, it achieves great depth of flavour without being too rich and opulent. Forrester found it "gently ripe and fragrant. Fresh and vibrant, with a fleshy texture. Startlingly good!" I loved the developing characters, with suggestions of charcuterie and compost. One hesitates to say Burgundian, but it's inescapable. It finishes quite tight and dry, with savoury flavours lingering. It should continue to develop for several years.