

Wine & Spirits

Year's Best US Pinot Noir

93 | Lioco

2014 Sonoma Coast Laguna Pinot Noir (Best Buy) Lioco winemaker John Raytek blended this from two sites planted on sandy Goldridge soil: Teac Mor, a low-lying vineyard near the Laguna de Santa Rosa flood plain, the other on Burnside Road, higher up in the western hills and closer to the coast. This has a tight, stony structure that speaks of those spare, sedimentary soils, and perhaps also of the yield-reducing drought that affected the 2014 vintage. It feels potent, mineral and even a bit gruff at first, taking four days of air for its woody cherry flavor to clarify, turning plump and lush, yet cooled by a spicy lavender aroma. It's a Sonoma pinot noir that could stand up to lamb loin, and will improve with five or more years in bottle. *Reviewed by Luke Sykora.*

