



Stephen Tanzer's

International Wine Cellar

Nov/Dec 2012 Central Coast Review, by Josh Raynolds

92

2009 Fiddlehead Cellars Pinot Noir Seven Twenty Eight Fiddlestix Sta. Rita Hills

Bright red. Sexy aromas of black raspberry, cinnamon, minerals and potpourri; smells like there are stems here but Kathy Joseph says no. Precise and vibrant on the palate, with good nervy cut to its intense flavors of candied red berries and spicecake. Still youthfully taut and bound-up but shows excellent potential. Turns more floral with air, finishing with tangy grip and a lingering hint of Asian spices. This pinot shows impressive vivacity for its warm vintage.

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2009 Fiddlehead Cellars Pinot Noir Lollapalooza Fiddlestix Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

Bright ruby-red. Suave cherry and dark berry aromas are complicated by Indian spice and violet nuances. Broad and open-knit, offering sweet blackberry and cherry-cola flavors that provide impressive palate coverage. Gentle tannins build on the long, spicy finish, which leaves notes of bitter cherry and candied flowers behind. I suspect that this pinot will hit its optimum drinking window in the next few years.

91

2008 Fiddlehead Cellars Pinot Noir Seven Twenty Eight Fiddlestix Sta. Rita Hills

Bright red. Bright red fruits on the nose, with sexy Asian spices and a floral element adding complexity. Deep and sweet but energetic and precise, with an appealing sappiness to its raspberry and bitter cherry flavors. Silky tannins build on the long, pliant finish, which shows a refreshingly bitter blood orange nuance.

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2010 Fiddlehead Cellars Sauvignon Blanc Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara

Green-tinged yellow. Sexy aromas of lemon curd, poached pear and vanilla, with hints of oak spice and honey adding complexity. Fleshy and smooth in texture but surprisingly dry, with powerful orchard fruit and melon flavors underscored by juicy acidity. Behaves like a blend of white Bordeaux and Pouilly-Fume, finishing with lipsmacking acidity and very good length. This wine could pair up with rich or light foods, or can be enjoyed on its own.

91

2009 Fiddlehead Cellars Sauvignon Blanc Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara

Light, bright gold. Candied lemon and honeydew aromas are complicated by pungent herbs and anise. Juicy, sharply focused citrus fruit flavors gain weight with air and pick up a suave floral nuance. Closes on a refreshingly bitter note, with very good clarity and length.

90

2006 Fiddlehead Cellars Pinot Noir Seven Twenty Eight Fiddlestix Sta. Rita Hills

Vivid red. Pungent aromas of blackberry, cherry skin, candied rose and peppery spices. Sweet and chewy on the palate, offering bitter cherry, licorice, floral pastille and allspice flavors. Finishes with dusty, gripping tannins and very good length. This wine is still unfolding and should reward further patience.

90

2011 Fiddlehead Cellars Sauvignon Blanc Goosebury Santa Ynez Valley

Pale yellow. Fresh melon, pear, lime zest and jasmine on the pungent nose, plus a subtle herbal overtone. At once plump and vibrant, with tangy citrus and green apple flavors complemented by deeper fig and melon notes. Finishes with strong spicy cut and very good length, leaving citrus and floral notes behind.

90

2007 Fiddlehead Cellars Sauvignon Blanc Hunnysuckle Santa Ynez Valley

Light yellow-gold. Exotically perfumed bouquet evokes dried pear, lemon rind, anise and musky herbs. Broad and fleshy but surprisingly dry, offering chewy orchard fruit and tarragon flavors and a bracing note of citrus pith. Finishes with good cut and refreshing bitterness, the lemon note repeating.