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**American Rosé:
The 2019 Vintage**

Special Focus on Pinot Noir

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Introduction

In this report, we explore the stunning rosés produced from Pinot Noir and other grape varieties by American wineries. These rosés are made in different styles and often from vineyards farmed specifically for rosé. Virtually all are dry, crisp and full of flavor. The best ones are fresh with bright natural acidity. They are balanced with good fruit flavors and complex, mineral-like nuances and have moderate levels of alcohol. They vary in character from floral noses with perfumed palates ideal as aperitif wines to savory, dense wines best served at the dinner table. This report also offers recommendations on pairing different styles of rosés with a variety of dishes.

This report puts special but not exclusive focus on rosés from the 2019 vintage made from Pinot Noir grown in Oregon, coastal California, and New York's Finger Lakes. In addition, we provide reviews of rosés made from Cabernet Franc, Grenache, Syrah and other varieties. Most of these wines are still, but a few are sparkling. Our tasting notes provide as much detail as possible as to how each was made. For readers interested in knowing more about the making of rosé and the contributions of each grape variety, we recommend reading our in-depth 2018 report **The World of Rosé**. We have also written numerous articles on rosé wines and producers, which can be found on our iwinereview.com blog.

Rosé is one of the fastest growing segments for US wineries. Just a decade ago an American rosé was often off dry and the saignée by-product from the making of red wine. Today, it's dry and crisp and most often what's called an intentional rosé, meaning a wine expressly vinified to be a rosé and sourced from specially cultivated vineyards. As a result, American rosés today are among the best in the world.

Acknowledgements.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Oregon Wine Board, the West Sonoma Coast Vintners Association, and the Finger Lakes Wine Alliance for facilitating the delivery of samples during this difficult time of pandemic. In addition, we thank all the producers who shared samples of their rosé wines with us.

Rosé of Pinot Noir



This report puts special focus on American rosés made from the Pinot Noir grape. Most of these wines are made from the regions best known for making Pinot Noir wine: Oregon's Willamette Valley, the cool coastal areas of California, and the cold glacial Finger Lakes of New York. Rosés of Pinot Noir come in a range of styles, including a deeply colored, densely flavored, vinous style like the Flowers Rosé of Pinot Noir from the Sonoma Coast.

The single largest source of Pinot Noir rosés is Oregon, especially the Willamette Valley. In California, they come from the "true" or West Sonoma Coast, the Russian River Valley, Monterey and the Santa Lucia Highlands, and Santa Barbara, especially the Sta. Rita Hills. And in New York, they come from vineyards planted on the hillsides of the Finger Lakes.

Most the rosés of Pinot Noir tasted for this report are intentional rosés made from vines specifically cultivated for rosé. Grapes are harvested early for freshness and acidity and given a few hours on the skins before pressing. Some are given extra time on the skins for deeper color and a more vinous character. Most are partly fermented and/or aged in neutral oak, giving the wines additional complexity and a fuller mouth feel.

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