

January 2015

LIOCO stands out for wines that deliver pure pleasure. Every glass seems to call for another in these superb, impeccable whites and reds. Best of all, pricing remains exceedingly fair for the quality that goes into the bottle. -- Antonio Galloni

89 pts. 2013 Sonoma County Chardonnay - The 2013 Chardonnay (Sonoma County) is absolutely delicious. Apricot pit, peach, honey, mint and chamomile flesh out in a bold, racy Chardonnay to drink now and over the next few years. Once again, LIOCO delivers superb value with the Sonoma Coast Chardonnay.

93 pts. 2013 *Estero*, Chardonnay - Lemon peel, white flowers, white pepper and mint open up in the 2013 Chardonnay Russian River Estero. The flavors are bright and lifted, with gorgeous textural depth and balance. Drink this mid-weight, energetic Chardonnay over the next handful of years. This is an impeccable, beautifully balanced Chardonnay from LIOCO.

92 pts. 2012 Demuth Vineyard, Chardonnay - The 2012 Chardonnay Demuth Vineyard is laced with nectarine, orange blossom, spices, mint, chamomile and lightly honeyed notes. Oily and beautifully layered throughout, the Demuth offers a marriage of fairly overt flavors in a mid-weight, resonant style that is hugely appealing

91 pts. 2012 Hanzell Vineyard, Chardonnay - Succulent yellow peaches, apricots, graphite, smoke and honey are some of the notes that blossom in the 2012 Chardonnay Hanzell Vineyard. This is the most boisterous and exuberant of the 2012 Chardonnays from Lioco. The fruit was picked in mid-August, which helped preserve a measure of freshness.

92 pts. 2013 *Laguna*, Pinot Noir (March '15 release)- The 2013 Pinot Noir Laguna is bright, floral and lifted, with striking inner perfume, lovely purity and impeccable overall balance. Red and purplish toned fruits, lavender, mint, hard candy and white flowers grace the crystalline finish. Drink this md-weight Pinot over the next few years. This is one of the best wines readers will find for the money.

92 pts. 2012 Klindt Vineyard Pinot Noir - The 2012 Pinot Noir Klindt, from gravelly soils in Anderson Valley, is hugely appealing. Dark and virile in personality, the 2012 offers lovely mid-palate depth and resonance supported by beams of tannin and acidity. Hints of cedar, tobacco, game and earthiness add nuance and contribute to the wine's dark personality. Its attractive, mid-weight personality notwithstanding, the Klindt remains a bit rough around the edges, but that is not enough to meaningfully detract from the pleasure it provides. Readers can look to a number of years of fine drinking here.

94 pts. 2012 Saveria Vineyard, Pinot Noir - Sweet tobacco, mint, graphite, lavender and sage lift from the glass in the 2013 Pinot Noir Saveria. Dark, juicy and pliant, the 2012 impresses for its balance and pure nuance. There is an element of intrigue that elevates the Saveria and keeps all of the sense deeply engaged. The 50% whole clusters add dimensions of complexity in a striking Pinot that delivers the goods big time.

91 pts. 2012 Hirsch Vineyard, Pinot Noir - The 2012 Pinot Noir Hirsch is pretty and open, with good immediacy and intensity. Crushed flowers, red stone fruits and spices open up nicely in a Pinot that shows good overall complexity. As good as the 2012 is, it is also pretty clear these are not the very best blocks off the property. Here, too, 2013 will be the last vintage for the Hirsch.

89 pts. 2013 Indica Carignan - The 2013 Indica, 100% Carignane from Mendocino County, is fabulous. Silky, racy and textured, the 2013 impresses for its pure exuberance and pedigree. Punchy red stone fruits, pomegranate, wild flowers and sage meld into the vivid, savory finish. Best of all, the Indica is a superb value. I have to say, this is one of my personal favorites in the Lioco lineup. The 2013 was done entirely in neutral oak, which really allows the purity of the fruit to shine through.