

BIRICHINO

Stephen Tanzer's
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2011 Birichino Amici Pinot Noir Saint Georges Central Coast 90

(\$23) Vivid red. Spice - and floral - accented red berries and cherry pit on the fragrant nose, and in the mouth. Lively and sharply focused, with slow-building sweetness and a silken texture. Closes with firm cut, fine-grained tannins and lingering spiciness. This wine's vivacity make it highly adaptable at the table.



2011 Birichino Amici Pinot Noir Lilo Vineyard Santa Cruz Mountains 92

(\$38) Bright red. Vibrant, mineral-laced red berry, blood orange and rose pastille aromas show excellent clarity and focus. Energetic raspberry and orange pith flavors put on weight with air and take a darker, deeper turn to bitter cherry. Silky tannins come on late and provide grip for the long, spice- and floral- accented finish. This bright, incisive pinot clocks in at 12.5% alcohol.



2012 Birichino Amici Malvasia Bianca Monterey 90

(\$16) Bright straw. High-pitched, mineral-accented aromas of melon and white flowers, along with a hint of yellow rose. Dry and racy, offering tangy honeydew and put fruit flavors and a hint of bitter orange pith. Finishes brisk and clean, with a sexy floral quality and very good persistence.



2011 Birichino Amici Grenache Vieilles Vignes Central Coast 90

(\$23) Vivid red. High-pitched aromas of strawberry, cherry and fresh rose, with a peppery topnote. Light-bodied and racy on the palate, offering tangy red fruit flavors and a touch of bitter herbs. Closes with firm grip and spicy cut, leaving bitter cherry and peppery notes behind. I find this ridiculously easy to drink, owing to its pinot-like delicacy and verve.

