


# Hirsch Vineyards

My tasting with Jasmine Hirsch was one of the highlights of my January trip. The 2016 Pinots are superb. Specifically, I see a measure of precision and delineation in these wines that hasn't always been present in the recent past. The Pinot Noir Estate East Ridge is particularly compelling in 2016.

From Best New Releases from Sonoma and Beyond (May 2019) by Antonio Galloni

	Vintage	(Hover for Commentary)	Name	Tasting		Author	Drinking Window	Release Price	Review Date
		Producer		Notes	Score				
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<a href="#">Chardonnay Estate</a>	Hirsch's 2016 Chardonnay Estate is delicate, floral and also quite savory, with a decidedly understated personality and a soft, caressing feel. Orchard fruit, pear, mint and sage are all laced into the finish. There is lovely energy and focus here.  -- Antonio Galloni	93+	Antonio Galloni	2019 - 2026	\$60.00	May 2019	
2017	Hirsch Vineyards	<a href="#">Chardonnay Estate</a>	The 2017 Chardonnay Estate is quite different in style than the 2016 tasted alongside it. Tangerine oil, yellow orchard fruit, mint, wild flowers and tropical overtones give the 2017 a touch of exoticism that is impossible to miss. Already quite expressive, it is a real joy to taste today. To be sure, the 2017 is more flamboyant than readers might be accustomed to here, but the wine is striking in its beauty.  -- Antonio Galloni	94	Antonio Galloni	2019 - 2027	\$60.00	May 2019	
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<a href="#">Pinot Noir Bohan Dillon</a>	The 2016 Pinot Noir Bohan Dillon is lovely. Gracious, lifted and light on its feet, it is super-expressive today. Crushed red berries, flowers, mint and chalky notes all grace this exquisite, polished Pinot Noir. A dollop of whole clusters adds striking shades of nuance. Once again, the Bohan Dillon is a real overachiever, not to mention a fabulous introduction to these wines.  -- Antonio Galloni	91	Antonio Galloni	2019 - 2028	\$38.00	May 2019	
2017	Hirsch Vineyards	<a href="#">Pinot Noir Bohan Dillon</a>	The 2017 Pinot Noir Bohan Dillon is fascinating to taste next to the 2016. The 2017 possesses good up-front fruit and brightness, but the tannins are also larger and more coarse. The wine's feel might be attributable to the specifics of the 2017 growing season and/or to the slightly higher percentage of whole clusters (25%) in this vintage. It will be interesting to see if the 2017 softens with a bit more time in bottle. There is good brightness and plenty of nuance, although today I give a slight nod to the 2016.  -- Antonio Galloni	90	Antonio Galloni	2019 - 2029	\$38.00	May 2019	
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<a href="#">Pinot Noir Estate San Andreas Fault</a>	Hirsch's Pinot Noir Estate San Andreas Fault is absolutely gorgeous in 2016. The flavors are bold, punchy and super-expressive. More importantly, I see more depth and complexity than in the past. Black cherry, plum, lavender and spice all race out of the glass. Pliant, deep and inviting, the 2016 is arrestingly beautiful. The decision to bottle early, with 11 months in oak as opposed to 18-20 as was previously the norm, paid off big time.	93	Antonio Galloni	2020 - 2031	\$60.00	May 2019	

-- Antonio Galloni

---

2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<u>Pinot Noir Estate West Ridge</u>	The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate West Ridge is a floral, airy wine with lovely energy. Crushed berries, dried flowers, chalk and mint add to its high-toned, lifted profile. Beams of supporting fine, chalky tannin add persistence to this super-expressive, taut Pinot.	92	Antonio Galloni	2021 - 2031	\$85.00	May 2019
<p>-- Antonio Galloni</p>								
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<u>Pinot Noir Estate Raschen Ridge</u>	The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Raschen Ridge is one of the more overt wines in the range. Ample, broad and creamy, it is wonderfully expressive today. The 40% whole clusters are not especially evident; what comes through most is the wine's textural resonance and breadth. Dark cherry, plum, spice and new leather build into the generous, nuanced finish.	94	Antonio Galloni	2021 - 2031	\$85.00	May 2019
<p>-- Antonio Galloni</p>								
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<u>Pinot Noir Estate East Ridge</u>	The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate East Ridge is a wine of real precision and nuance. Although not as obvious as the other wines in this range, the East Ridge speaks with a sense of distinction. Small red berries, chalk, white pepper and blood orange are some of the notes that are laced together in this super-finessed, understated Pinot. In 2016, the East Ridge is incredibly distinctive, not to mention absolutely delicious.	95	Antonio Galloni	2021 - 2031	\$85.00	May 2019
<p>-- Antonio Galloni</p>								
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<u>Pinot Noir Estate Reserve</u>	The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Reserve is a big wine. Red fruit, pomegranate, rose petal, lavender, mint and spice are some of the notes that race out of the glass. The Reserve is quite powerful and explosive in feel, but it is also a bit reduced. In my view, some of the other wines in this range offer better balance and completeness. Let's see what bottle age brings here.	93	Antonio Galloni	2021 - 2031	\$85.00	May 2019
<p>-- Antonio Galloni</p>								
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<u>Pinot Noir Estate Block 8</u>	The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Block 8 is another stellar wine from Hirsch, bringing together all the best qualities that make these wines so compelling. Rich and explosive, with plenty of fruit, the Block 8 also has plenty of supporting structure to wrap all the elements together. In this tasting, it is the epitome of balance.	94+	Antonio Galloni	2021 - 2036	\$95.00	May 2019
<p>-- Antonio Galloni</p>								
2016	Hirsch Vineyards	<u>Pinot Noir Estate The Old Vineyard</u>	The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate The Old Vineyard is very closed today and offers little of the appeal of the other wines in this range. Earthy, gamy and savory notes abound, and, if there is much fruit, it is not at all expressive. Stylistically, the Old Vineyard is an outlier in this range. This parcel is planted with own-rooted Pommard and Wädenswil clone Pinot. To my palate, the wine is just too awkward to provide any real pleasure.	89	Antonio Galloni	2020 - 2028	\$125.00	May 2019
<p>-- Antonio Galloni</p>								

---

