

Allen Meadows'
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Michaud Vineyard (Soledad, CA)

2005 Pinot Noir red 90

2004 Pinot Noir red 87

2003 Pinot Noir red 90

2002 Pinot Noir red 88

2001 Pinot Noir red 89

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For further information contact: (650) 529-0973 or visit www.michaudvineyard.com Note that very good chardonnay is made here as well with an understated style and while the wood regimen is not invisible, it actually is a good deal more moderate than most of what comes out of CA today.

2004 Pinot Noir: (Chalone Appellation and bottled at 14.3%). A high-toned red cherry and raspberry nose with violet and blue berries nuances leads to round yet detailed middle weight flavors that offer good balance and underlying tension if not great complexity on the nicely long finish. In sum, this delivers good if not special quality and the only real nit is a distinct note of finishing warmth. 87/2009+

2003 Pinot Noir: (Chalone Appellation and bottled at 13.9%). A seductive and airy nose of red raspberry, cherry and cranberry with nuances of blue fruit and plum merge into detailed, fresh and vibrant middle weight flavors that are supple and silky on the balanced, sweet and intense moderately structured finish. While this could be approached now, it clearly will be capable of further improvement over the next 5 years or so. Lovely and like the 2001, worth a look. 90/2009+

2002 Pinot Noir: (Chalone Appellation and bottled at 13.4%). Classic ruby. Here the nose is a bit more complex having had the benefit of a few years of bottle age, offering up notes of still primary small red berry fruit aromas and subtle spice hints that can also be found on the round, delicious and dusty flavors that finish with verve and a subtle dryness that brings the finish up slightly short. Still, the overall balance is better here and there is none of the noticeable warmth displayed by the '04. I would give this one more year in the cellar and then drink over the next 3 to 5 years as the solid balance will enable it to age gracefully. 88/2008+

2001 Pinot Noir: (Chalone Appellation and bottled at 14.1%). The aromas have reached the inflection point as they have now begun the transition between primary and secondary even if they remain largely primary with pretty and deepening notes of red berry and hints of earth. The flavors however have resolved almost all of their underlying structure yet they retain a fine sense of intensity and punch with excellent persistence. I quite like the style and focus here and this is close to its peak though it should hold nicely for another 5 to 7 years, perhaps a bit longer. Worth a look. 89/2008+