

# Top 10 Pinot Noirs of 2021

*By Patrick Schmitt*

Following a comprehensive blind tasting earlier this month for 2021's Global Pinot Noir Masters, we bring you the top 10 highlights, including brilliant berry-scented drops from Romania to Oregon and a brand new celebrity-backed bottle.

Below are my highest-scoring wines from across a range of categories in this year's Pinot-only blind tasting competition, taking in fantastic samples of still and sparkling wine, red and rosé, along with Pinots selling for under £10 to over £50.

A full report on all the medallists from this year's Global Pinot Noir Masters will feature in the June edition of *the drinks business*, but for now, please read on for a top 10 selection for 2021.

## 1. Best Pinot producer of 2021: Donum Estate



The top performing producer of The Global Pinot Noir Masters 2021 was Sonoma single vineyard specialist Donum Estate. Gaining more than 95 points for all its entries, it is clear that Donum is a Master of Pinot Noir. Not only that, but with different Pinot expressions according to sourcing, it showed that Donum is able to reflect site specifics – a sign of good vineyard management, and sensitive handling in the cellar. In terms of general wine style, these are juicy, fleshy, powerful Pinots, but not heavy wines. Their ripe fruit aromatics, and creamy oak characters belied wines with a brightness, and lightness, that made all of the Donum Pinots hard to sip, only because they were so easy to drink.

- Producer: Donum Estate (for Heritage Clones 2018, Three Hills 2018, Ten Oaks 2018)
- Source: Carneros, Sonoma & Russian River Valley, California, USA
- Closure: Natural cork
- Medal: Two Masters and a Gold
- Approximate retail price (UK): £50+