

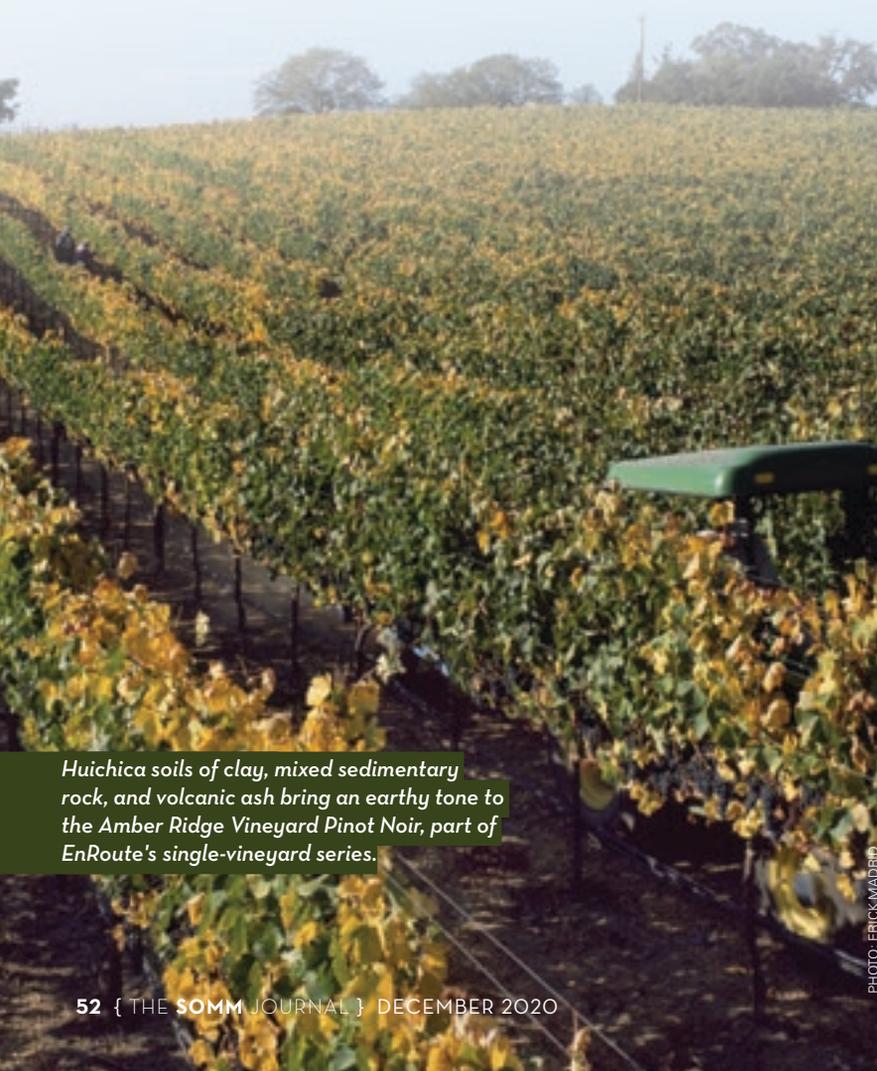


THE SOMM Journey

In each issue, the editorial team at *The SOMM Journal* will deliberate through wine submissions and release final judgment on select wines that garnered scores of at least 90 points. The "journey" will also occasionally feature an esteemed guest sommelier.

Going Solo: The Single Vineyard

ENROUTE THROUGH CALIFORNIA, WE **TALLEY** OUR SCORES FOR SINGLE-VINEYARD PROJECTS THAT SET THEIR SITES ON SPECIFIC AVAS



Huichica soils of clay, mixed sedimentary rock, and volcanic ash bring an earthy tone to the Amber Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir, part of EnRoute's single-vineyard series.

PHOTO: ERICK MADRID

Our Journey with EnRoute

IN THE LAST EDITION of the *Somm Journey*, we featured the Cabernet Sauvignons of Nickel & Nickel. In this issue, we delve into another Far Niente project, EnRoute, established in 2007 to show off the beauty and perfection of Pinot Noir from the Russian River Valley. EnRoute's single-vineyard program captures the essence of specially selected sites.

EnRoute 2018 Pinot Noir, Northern Spy Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$85)

In the cool Green Valley sub-AVA just 10 miles from the Pacific, this vineyard is planted on the Russian River Valley's famous Goldridge sandy loam soils. Elegant from nose to palate, with black pepper-crustured Rainier cherries and dusty plum-skin tannins. Lovely floral notes of jasmine and underbrush are followed by cigar leaf and thyme on the finish. The palate has the feel of a silk jacket. **96**



EnRoute 2018 Pinot Noir, Marty's Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$85)

Sitting on Goldridge soils on one of the steepest hills in the Green Valley, Marty's Vineyard is often fogged in. The nose offers bright, sunshine-filled pomegranate before a dramatic wave of cherry, dried flowers, and white pepper washes over the palate. The mouthfeel is preternaturally weightless: The liquid almost hovers. As it opens, the wine reveals cigar leaf and licorice. **95**

EnRoute 2018 Pinot Noir, Amber Ridge Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$85)

Amber Ridge is EnRoute's warmest site, with a fog pattern that allows for three more hours of sunlight than its cooler vineyards receive 12 miles away. Luscious, like biting into a chocolate-covered cherry—the liquid slowly streaming out and saturating the mouth. Notes and aromas of beetroot, cinnamon, and sandalwood follow. **96**