

MOTOR ON TO

MENDOCINO

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92 Goldeneye 2019
Split Rail Pinot Noir
(Anderson Valley)
Price: \$88 abv: 14.2%

94 Foursight 2020
Parabol Pinot Noir
(Anderson Valley)
Price: \$63 abv: 14.3%

94 Pennyroyal Farm 2019
Monty in Pinot Noir
(Anderson Valley)
Price: \$59 abv: 13.8%



If you're like me, taking a road trip always involves a tangent—in this case, into Anderson Valley. Driving through the AVA—a twisty, turny, hilly operation—there are loads of stops for Pinot Noir. The grape thrives well here, given its proximity to the Pacific and the chilly oceanic winds that swish through the region.

Two must-stops are the tiny towns of Boonville and Philo, which are knitted together by scenic rows of vines and are where a cluster of wineries are located—as well as one of the best hotel accommodations (and restos) in the area—The Boonville Hotel and Restaurant.

If you're here for your fix of Pinots, a popular place is Goldeneye. But don't miss out on the smaller independent producers: A visit to husband-wife winemaking duo Kristy Charles and Joseph Webb of Foursight Wines is always on my to-do list. Reservations highly recommended to sample the great work of Thomas T Thomas, Phillips Hill and Pennyroyal Farm.

But the climate and terroir are suited to much more than just Pinot: Cool climate, peppery Syrah; Gewürztraminer that can maintain its acidity while developing those elegant fruit and floral notes; and Pinot Gris that pays respectable homage to Alsatian nobility. All of these—in addition to Pinot Noir—can be found at Handley Cellars.

And if you find yourself in need of provisions—or, as I did, a bulky sweatshirt to ward against the brisk morning temps—stop by Lemons Philo Market.

94 Thomas T Thomas 2020 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley)
Price: \$70 abv: 13.4%

93 Phillips Hill 2020 L'Air De Mer Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley)
Price: \$50 abv: 13.8%

92 Handley Cellars 2021 Estate Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley)
Price: \$38 abv: 13.3%