

Mohua, Central Otago (New Zealand) Pinot Noir 2008 (\$20, Vineyard Brands): Youthful so fresh but also not yet evolved, this is a delicious Pinot Noir, praiseworthy especially for its excellent balance and light, lithe character. In my experience, good Pinots from Central Otago in New Zealand's South Island tend to feel silky and almost delicate on the palate. This one definitely fits that bill. Its flavors do seem a little simple at present, but I'd be willing to bet that the wine will become more complex and compelling with a year or two of bottle age. If true, it definitely will merit a 90+ score.

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