

Mohua, Central Otago (New Zealand) Pinot Noir 2008 (\$20, Vineyard Brands):

Twenty bucks for lovely Pinot Noir--Mohua (pronounced mow-who-a) has given us a Christmas present. A touch of earthy intrigue adds balance to this fruit-forward Pinot Noir. The tannins are barely noticeable which allows for immediate enjoyment. Despite its stated 14% alcohol, it has a lovely laciness that distinguishes it from the heavy overdone style of Pinot Noir flooding the market. **89** [Michael Apstein](#) *Dec 8, 2009*