

MarketWatch

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Here's the perfect wine for your Thanksgiving feast

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This California Pinot Noir comes from a winemaker with a two-decade history



The bottle: [Fort Ross Vineyard Fort Ross-Seaview Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir 2013](#), \$52

The back story: Thanksgiving always poses a challenge when it comes to finding the right wine. The holiday meal has just about everything flavor-wise, from the savory to the sweet. Even the turkey itself — presuming you're going with the bird as your protein

of choice — ranges in taste from the mild (the white meat) to the slightly gamey (the dark).

Our solution: [Do what Miles in the wine-centric movie “Sideways” did](#) — go for Pinot Noir, a varietal that’s not too heavy, not too light and pairs extraordinarily well with a range of dishes.

In particular, go for this California pinot, which comes from a winemaker with a two-decade history in the Sonoma area. What distinguishes Fort Vineyard is its proximity to the Pacific Ocean — the resulting cool climate is especially suitable for the grape.

Of course, this has been a tough year for Sonoma County and nearby Napa Valley, the heart of California’s winemaking industry. The wildfires that spread throughout the area last month caused about [\\$3 billion in damages in Sonoma](#) alone. Some wineries were affected, though Fort Ross was thankfully not among them. The vineyard is doing its part to help the area recover by donating a portion of its tasting-room proceeds to support relief efforts.

What we think about it: The Fort Ross-Seaview pinot is the essence of pinot — a very approachable wine full of delicacy and character. The tastes blends plenty of rich red fruit with subtle notes of spice. If you’re looking for something slightly lighter, try [Fort Ross’ Sea Slopes pinot](#).

How to enjoy it: As we said, this is a fine wine to serve with your holiday meal. Happy Thanksgiving!