

# *the* **Improper** *Bostonian*

WINE

## California Roots

Pinot Noir with tangy spice and tart edginess from California

By Sandy Block | Photo Credit: Rachel Kucharski | Feb. 22, 2019

Quality pinot noir isn't made to a formula, but faithfully reflects its growing conditions. Myriad styles are available, from delicate and nuanced to rich and luscious. While California's sunny climate almost always enables the grape to fully ripen, its pinot noirs sometimes lack backbone. These three, however, are admirably structured, with enough tangy spice and tart edginess to balance their juicy red fruit flavors.



DOMAINE CARNEROS.

### Domaine Carneros Pinot Noir, Carneros, 2016

Produced by Maison Taittinger of Champagne fame, this is a charming, florally scented wine, with accents of sage, tea leaf and Provençal herbs. Textbook Carneros, it comes across as gentle and soft on the palate, but with firm acidity, featuring a stony, almost peppery note on the finish. Salmon, anyone?



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