

The Press Democrat

Wine of the week: La Follette, 2013 North Coast Pinot Noir

PEG MELNIK | September 21, 2016

Simone Sequeira's greatest asset is her nose.

"I feel like I'm receiving nonverbal messages and cues all day long from ambient aromas inside and outside of the winery," she said.

The associate winemaker, gifted with sensory acuity, helped craft our wine-of-the-week winner the La Follette, 2013 North Coast Pinot Noir at \$24.

The La Follette pinot noir has aromas of bright strawberry that give way to concentrated flavors of dried cherry, cracked black pepper and mushroom. This pinot has depth, surprising at this price point. You also can find it at about 100 retail shops for \$20.

Sequeira, 41, has been working with vintner and winemaker Greg La Follette since the brand's inception in 2009, also when La Follette sold his winery, then named Tandem, to Wine Creek LLC.

La Follette said he completed a year of corporate restructuring.

La Follette produced the wine with the help of winemaker of Ancient

"I'm proud of all the excellent work of Simone Sequeira, who remains with La Follette."

Sequeira said she has been working with Greg La Follette since 2009, continuing to work with him and Ehren Jordan.

Sequeira's pivot to wine was a

"Until that time, my career was ephemeral, so I decided to do an introduction to wine."

In 2002, Sequeira started working at some of the finest wineries in the region.

Sequeira said she has been working with Greg La Follette since 2009, continuing to work with him and Ehren Jordan.

"Pick it too early and you lose the acidity drop."

Of all the daunting tasks, she said, the most

"It's like the blueberry look away for a moment."

Sequeira said she has been working with Greg La Follette since 2009, continuing to work with him and Ehren Jordan.

"Winemaking is a carousel of vineyard visits, cellar decisions, tasting, traveling, spreadsheets and sharing the wines with others," she said.

THIS WEEK'S BLIND TASTING
Mixed Reds

TOP PICK

La Follette



Cycles Gladiator, 2014 Central Coast

\$11. ★★★: A hefty boisterous fruit and flavors of toasty oak and pepper. This is a spicy wine that's most concentrated fruit.

2014 Black Boar, Sonoma County \$40. ★★★★★: This powerhouse with fruit, anise and notes this knockout is that fetching bold, fruit.

2013 Cuvee, Napa Sauvignon, 14.5%, tasty cab with black pepper and toasty oak. It has a nice length. Well

Reserve, 2013 Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, 15%, \$45. ★★★★★: Quite a range -- notes of black cherry, currant and seamless texture.

THIS WEEK'S BLIND TASTING Mixed Reds

Cycles Gladiator Central Coast Petite Sirah, 15%, \$11

A hefty petite sirah with boisterous fruit and spice. Aromas and flavors of blueberry, plum, toasty oak and cracked black pepper. This is a spicy petite sirah, but what's most impressive is its concentrated fruit. It's a tasty value.



[Peg Melnik's Tasting Room wine blog](#)

