

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

DAILY FOOD

Weekend Wine

Would you like a simple bottle of Pinot with dinner?

BY WES MARSHALL, SAT. FEB. 3, 2018

No wine is tougher to find than a reasonably priced, good quality Pinot Noir. The grape achieves its apotheosis in the Burgundy area of France, but their version is notoriously unpredictable from vintage to vintage.

California has perfect climates to create wonderful wines, especially in the Central Coast area.

"No wine is tougher to find than a reasonably priced, good quality Pinot Noir....Recently, I had the opportunity to try **Cycles Gladiator's** version from California's Central Coast. Winemaker Adam LaZarre has recently returned to the label, and he is making some very good wines...count this as a true bargain."

Counting on finding a Zinfandel, it's like finding a 120-pound Poodle. What's the point?

The wine's structure and tannic grip add immeasurably to a lightly sauced fish dish. Its aromas are the obvious cherry and what LaZarre describes as graham cracker crust, both of which offer a pleasing backdrop to your hard work in the kitchen. You can find other good American Pinot Noirs, but the soft spot for pricing is the \$20 and up range. So count this as a true bargain.



Winemaker Adam LaZarre (Photo courtesy of the Winery)

