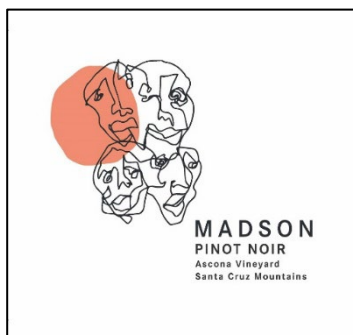


Madson

Santa Cruz Mountains



Pinot Noir, Ascona Vineyard 2024

The 2024 Pinot Noir Ascona is deeply layered and plush, but also intensely mineral, savory and finely delineated. Cool-climate character comes through in spades. Layers of new leather, black cherry, juniper and bay laurel build with air as the wine continues to deepen in the glass. This is a cellar-worthy Pinot that will certainly pay dividends after a few years in bottle.

95 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

The 2024 Pinot Noir Ascona Vineyard saw 100% whole-cluster fermentation on native yeast, and then 18 months in larger-format neutral French oak. Medium-bodied, it has a tight, textural feel accented in forest floor, orange peel, and porcini mushroom, the site amply surrounded by conifers, which play along the palate in intriguing ways. Give this a few years to blossom further and enjoy best 2028-2034.

94 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Pinot Noir, Ascona Vineyard 2023

The 2023 Pinot Noir Ascona Vineyard is a deeply red-fruited, blood orange-teased wine made from an old vineyard, planted entirely to Pommard clone and 100% whole-cluster pressed, native fermented, unfiltered and unfined. A shock of white pepper invites one into a light-bodied, complex, and layered palate that is garrigue-esque in lavender and earth.

98 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, April 2025

Pinot Noir, Toyon Vineyard 2024

A tank sample from a site planted in 2003, the 2024 Pinot Noir Toyon Vineyard is grippy and reductive right now, with a depth of small-berry intensity and dark brambly fruit. There's ample tannin and structure to go for decades, the dark-colored wine peppery and ethereal, with a hint of rose petal, cranberry, and pomegranate dusted in cardamom spice.

95-97 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Pinot Noir, Toyon Vineyard 2023

Low-slung vineyard north of the university, just three acres (1.2 ha), 3 miles (4.8 km) from the ocean. Madson draws from several small coastal vineyards like this one; a few the winery bottles as a vineyard designate, like this one. Regenerative viticulture.

It smells of torn leaves, crushed cherries. Very brooding forest, woodsmoke. The foresty, resinous note on the finish feels textbook. Drink 2026-2036.

17.5/20 pts—Patrick Comiskey, jancisrobinson.com, May 6, 2026

From a south-facing site on the western side of the Santa Cruz Mountains facing the Pacific, the 2023 Pinot Noir Toyon Vineyard is the richest and darkest of the Madson Pinot Noirs, opening with a brooding, black-fruited nose accented with fresh herb aromas and coniferous accents. The palate is svelte and supple, concluding with a sturdy finish that contains enough stuffing to support the tenacity emphasized by the stem inclusion, for which I found it the most complete of the Madson Pinot Noir offerings.

93 pts—Matthew Luczy, The Wine Advocate, August 2025

Pinot Noir, Santa Cruz Mountains 2024

The 2024 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains) is a blend of five sites across the region. It's a dark, earthy wine that packs a bunch of intensity into its deceptively svelte frame. Petrichor, truffle, bitter cherry skin and white pepper paint a rustic, old-school picture, as do the fine, grippy tannins that grab ahold of the mouthwatering finish. Full of character, this is built for lovers of classically built Pinot Noir from across the Atlantic.

93 pts—Billy Norris, Vinous Media, June 2026

From multiple coastal vineyard sites.

This is exuberantly foresty, with a scent of crushed pine needles, leaf litter, pepper and smoke. The flavours continue in this savoury vein, piney and pillowy, with a mineral salinity informing the texture and a slightly bitter, amaro-like finish. Tense, compelling, ageable. Drink 2026-2038.

18/20 pts—Patrick Comiskey, jancisrobinson.com, May 6, 2026

A blend of vineyards like Toyon, Branciforte, Chamise, and others, some of which get 100% whole-cluster fermentation, others lower, the 2024 Pinot Noir is also a blend of clones, all of which are chosen for their ability to hold their acid. Textured and bright in crunchy red fruit, it's a light-bodied, purely focused, linear wine of refreshing complexity, given about a year in a majority of neutral French oak. Earthy, savory elements of forest and black tea dance around the edges. Drink now through 2034.

95 pts—Virginie Boone, jebdunnuck.com, March 2026

Pinot Noir, Santa Cruz Mountains 2023

The 2023 Pinot Noir Santa Cruz Mountains was fermented with 60% stem inclusion, slightly less than the typical inclusion at Madson, due to the heavy clay soils from Corralitos that comprise much of the blend. A classically herbal and savory bouquet with forest-driven flourishes is followed by a slender, lively palate, concluding with a firm finish framed by stem-derived tannins.

90 pts—Matthew Luczy, *The Wine Advocate*, August 2025