

# 10 EMERGING OREGON PRODUCERS WINE SPECTATOR, JANUARY 31, 2010

**“The past couple of years have seen a number of promising new labels emerge in Oregon...Ransom, Capitello and Retour, for example, like to blend characteristics from different sites for complexity and dependability.” W.S. Jan, 2010**



Tad Seestedt of Ransom Wines & Spirits

94	Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard Summer 2007	\$150	110
93	Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard La Source 2007	\$90	120
92	Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard 2007	\$48	150

**Expression 44°**  
Premier Pacific Vineyards, which develops vineyards in California, Oregon and Washington, sells most of its grapes. Clients in Oregon include Beaux Frères, Bergström and Owen Roe. But owner William Williams assigns a few acres to his own wine brand, Expression 44°. The number refers to the latitude in Oregon's Eola-Amity Hills AVA, where producing vineyards are located. (There's also Expression 39° in Sooma and Expression 34° in Santa Rita Hills.) Richard Sewalls, who had been making the William Hill wines, long ago sold to G. the winemaker. The Oregon wines show class and impressive depth.

92	Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Zena Crown Vineyard 2006	\$75	30
91	Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Willakia Vineyard 2006	\$48	80

**Maysara**  
Civil engineer Moe Mourtazi and his wife, Flora, purchased a 532-acre abandoned wheat farm in the McMinnville AVA in 1997, started planting, and now have more than 200 acres under vine on several steep hillsides. Since the 2007 vintage, when daughter Tahmine Mourtazi took over winemaking, the bottlings have taken a step up in quality. The wine names and labels reflect the

90	Pinot Noir McMinnville Jamshed 2006		
90	Pinot Noir McMinnville Hira 2006		
90	Pinot Noir McMinnville Estate Cuvée 2		

**Quady North**  
Herb Quady, son of California disaster moved to southern Oregon in 2004, 1 yard, in Applegate Valley. The follow bought 100 acres and by 2006 had planted Franc and Viognier. The first wine outstanding quality.

90	Syrah Rogue Valley 4-2-A 2006		
90	Viognier Applegate Valley Steelhead		

**Ransom**  
Tad Seestedt discovered Oregon Pinot Noir studying architecture. When that career didn't pan out, he headed to Oregon, worked for a while at Argyle and Amity, and now has two brands: Ransom and Jigsaw (the latter for lower-priced wines). He buys grapes from high-elevation vineyards within 30 miles of his warehouse winery while he plants a vineyard in the McMinnville AVA.

90	Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Selection	\$34	800 cases
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**Retour**  
Lindsay Woodard, who grew up in McMinnville, buys grapes from all six Willamette Valley AVAs to make a consistent blend that expresses the region instead of a single site, and the results have been impressive. Winemaker Eric Hämacher managed to make a silky wine with finesse in the overripe 2006 vintage, and a wine of purity and intensity in the rain-plagued 2007. Plans are to increase production to 2,000 cases by 2010.

91	Retour Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2007	\$65	900 cases
93	Retour Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2006	\$65	600 cases

—Harvey Saciman

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