



## 2010 Wind Gap Pinot Noir Woodruff Vineyard

A Pinot Noir Dry Red Table wine from , Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by

WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)

Rating: 94

Drink 2012 - 2018

Cost: \$50

The 2010 Pinot Noir Woodruff Vineyard wafts from the glass with sweet red strawberries, crushed flowers, spices, mint and licorice. Whole-cluster fermentation gives the wine an attractive floral lift. Sweet candied cherries, mint and flowers wrap around the sensual finish. This feminine Pinot is all about delicacy and understatement. It is totally beguiling and beautiful from the very first taste. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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## 2009 Wind Gap Chardonnay Woodruff Vineyard

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Santa Cruz Mountains, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by

WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)

Rating: 94

Drink 2012 - 2017

Cost: \$48

The 2009 Chardonnay Woodruff Vineyard is fabulous. It shows the broad shoulders of Santa Cruz Mountains married to superb intensity in its varietal fruit, with plenty of mineral-infused energy. This is another fabulous wine from Pax Mahle and an eloquent example of Santa Cruz Mountains Chardonnay. Mahle gave the Woodruff Chardonnay a full 24 months of aging in French oak barrels, 33% new. The Woodruff made a deep impression on me for many reasons, including leaving me to ponder the true potential of California Chardonnay and this type of longer elevage, which is a rarity in

this country. There are only 74 cases of the Woodruff Chardonnay. Readers who can find it should not hesitate. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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### **2010 Wind Gap Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard**

A Pinot Noir Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma Coast , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Review by

WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)

Rating: 93

Drink 2012 - 2017

Cost: \$50

The 2010 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard is gorgeous. Layers of dark fruit, flowers, sweet spices and mint waft from the glass in this gorgeous, expressive Pinot. The 2010 reveals an attractive combination of depth in its fruit along with the higher-toned notes from the inclusion of 40% whole clusters. I especially like the energy and vibrancy Pax Mahle has achieved here, all while maintaining a medium-bodied style, not to mention considerable personality. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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### **2009 Wind Gap Chardonnay Gap's Crown Vineyard**

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Sonoma Coast , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Review by

WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)

Rating: 92

Drink 2012 - 2017

Cost: \$40

The 2009 Chardonnay Gap's Crown Vineyard is beautifully layered from start to finish. Lemon, mint, flowers and pastry are beautifully woven together in this delicate, understated Chardonnay. The wine was fermented in equal parts concrete, neutral oak and stainless steel and aged for 18 months in neutral oak. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is

largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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### **2009 Wind Gap Wines Chardonnay Yuen Vineyard**

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by  
WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)  
Rating: 91  
Drink 2012 - 2017  
Cost: \$36

The 2009 Chardonnay Yuen is a blend of fruit from James Berry in Paso Robles and Brosseau, which is in Chalone. The wine boasts tremendous depth and richness in a structured, complex, multi-dimensional style that is undeniably appealing. An implosive, mineral-drenched finish rounds things out. The 2009 was fermented in concrete and aged in 60% neutral oak and 40% stainless steel. I loved it. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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### **2009 Wind Gap Wines Syrah**

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma Coast , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Review by  
WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)  
Rating: 91+  
Drink 2012 - 2019  
Cost: \$36

The 2009 Syrah is a big step up from the 2008. It boasts gorgeous richness and depth in its fruit in a suave style that is undeniably appealing. Plums, black cherries, savory herbs, tapenade and licorice flow from this juicy, fleshy Syrah. The 2009 shows quite a bit more varietal character than the 2008. The vineyard sources are the same, except that Clary Ranch accounts for 50% of the fruit in the 2009 and only 30% in the 2008. The 2009 was made with 100% whole clusters and spent 18 months in neutral oak barrels. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up

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### **2009 Wind Gap Wines Syrah Griffin's Lair**

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma Coast , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Review by  
WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)  
Rating: 91  
Drink 2014 - 2021  
Cost: \$50-\$63

The 2009 Syrah Griffin's Lair is explosive and plush. Blackberries, camphor, spices, licorice and tar all flow from this rich, concentrated wine. There is plenty of depth in the glass, but not as much elegance as is found in the best wines. Game, smoke and licorice add complexity on the tannic finish. Today the Griffin's Lair is a bit of a brute and I imagine it will always have a rough-around-the-edges personality. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2021. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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### **2010 Wind Gap Wines Chardonnay James Berry Vineyard**

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by  
WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)  
Rating: 90  
Drink 2012 - 2018  
Cost: \$24

The 2010 Chardonnay James Berry Vineyard is all slate, crushed rocks, lemon and minerals emerging from this energetic, focused Chardonnay. The full malolactic fermentation gives the 2010 an attractive richness but without robbing the wine of the distinctive minerality that is the signature of this great site in Paso Robles. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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## 2008 Wind Gap Wines Syrah

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma Coast , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Review by

WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)

Rating: 89

Drink 2012 - 2018

Cost: \$33-\$49

The 2008 Syrah reveals lovely inner perfume in its dark fruit, sweet herbs, licorice and tar. This soft, understated Syrah impresses for its length, inner sweetness and gorgeous, well-articulated finish. The 2008 is a blend of fruit from Clary Ranch, Nellesen Vineyard and Armagh Vineyard, fermented with 100% whole clusters and aged in neutral oak. It is a terrific wine, especially for the money. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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## 2010 Wind Gap Pinot Noir

A Pinot Noir Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma Coast , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Review by

WA # , #199 (Feb 2012)

Rating: 88

Drink 2012 - 2015

Cost: \$36

The 2010 Pinot Noir was made from equal parts Gap's Crown and Griffin's Lair fruit. It is an attractive, fleshy wine best suited for drinking over the next 2-3 years. Licorice, dried flowers and spices are woven into the fragrant, soft finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. I was deeply impressed with many of the wines I tasted from Wind Gap and proprietors Pax and Pamela Mahle. The estate favors cooler, marginal sites. The wines are made with a very natural approach, which is to say the grapes are crushed by foot, aging is largely done in neutral oak and the wines are bottled without fining or filtration. Best of all, many of these wines sell for very reasonable prices. Readers should note that Mahle's Agharta line-up is reviewed separately. Pax Mahle told me he plans to re-launch his Pax label in the near future. Tel. (707) 887-9100; [www.windgapwines.com](http://www.windgapwines.com)

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